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PALMERSTON AND THE EMPERORS.

A FAVOURITE subject of discussion now-a-days among speculative men is—what is Palmerston? We never met any one person who knew for certain, nor any two persons who agreed entirely. Some investigators hold that he is a Tory, who takes a secret pleasure in governing by humbugging Liberals. Others think him a potent and deadly intriguer in the cause of despotism. The common British Radical believes (or did believe till lately) that he is really the model British Radical after all, earnestly bent on impregnating Europe with "enlightened" ideas. Hence we used always to hear that he was a "dangerous" man. Old Louis Philippe, in one of the despatches which the French Republic published from his papers, said of him, "He is surrounded by people who watch him and keep him back." How great ought our disappointment to be if he turns out a most harmless old gentleman after all, keeping on the best terms with every despot going, and having really no more zeal for European freedom than Aberdeen! The romance of his reputation will be gone; for, hitherto, Lord Palmerston's has been the most romantic fame of all our statesmen. There was once an Archbishop of York who had been a buccaner; and such reports give a piquancy to a man's reputation. The English are called prosaic, but they run mad after romantic renowns, like their neighbours. Palmerston's renown has always had this in its favour, that the mass of people have believed him full of more daring projects, and more wide ideas, than the run of Downing Street. Men who are more respectable have never been so popular, and that in a country which, at bottom, believes more in respectability than in anything.

How else account for the fact, that the public never mind Palmerston's changes, while there is nothing about which they make such a fuss as "consistency?" Peel is quoted as a notable "traitor," but he never changed without damaging himself, and the country can look back and thank him for what he did while changing. But who remembers, among the wide public, that our present Premier has shifted in a manner only to be paralleled by the model rat, Sir James Graham? Servant of Castlereagh—pupil of Canuing—Whig—Coalitionist—there is no form of politics *quod non tetigit*—we are bound to add also, none *quod non ornavit*. His talent is the only thing which he has not changed; and we suppose that his ascendancy is really due to the fact, that he accommodates himself to the epoch,

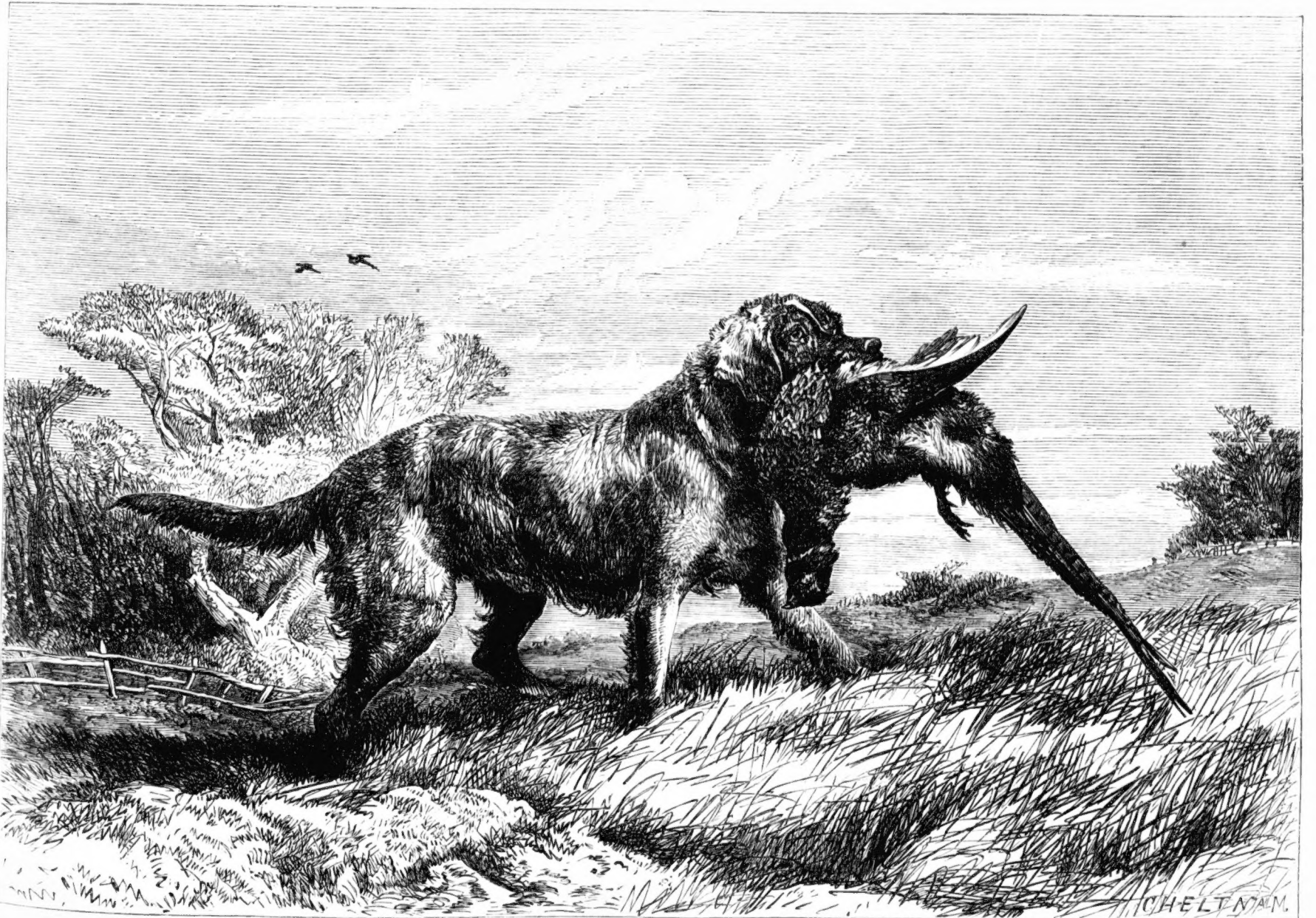
without losing any of his vigour. He is the politician of the day—the man who most readily adapts himself to circumstances. Everybody knows what Lord John thought in 1830; but about Palmerston, at that date, few have distinct ideas. They conclude that he was then, as now, an immensely clever fellow, and are content with that belief. Lord John is "a system" (as Madame de Stael said of Napoleon); but the Viscount is a man. He has the same vitality in body, for the admiring officials of the West will tell you that "he runs up-stairs—runs!"

It is with great deference that we propound a theory, but for our part we always regard the Premier as a wonderful instance of the eighteenth-century man. And that is all the more in favour of his vigour, since the eighteenth-century man is nearly gone. His genius is the genius of the man of the world—the genius of Chesterfield or Horace Walpole. When, in a careless moment, he broached his "baby" theory, he was half-unconsciously reflecting the very tone of Hume and Voltaire. Compare his speeches with those of the best speakers now, and see how much more colloquial and easy they are. He has the kind of superiority that Major Pendennis would admire. The new generation are more earnest, more sentimental, and more philosophical. But Lord P. has far more of the qualities which tell on the nail, and which everybody can understand and feel. Thus, though his opinions may be mysterious, his talents are thoroughly appreciable. And as he is always making his talents felt, the world does not feel the dubiety about his opinions so much. Unfortunately for other men, even of higher mind, they are judged of from the theories they broach only. To all the Premier's advantages must be added the *prestige* of half-a-century's direct employment in business—an advantage against which nothing can stand.

It may seem inconsistent to say that he owes his success to the man of the world talent, and yet much of his popularity to his being thought to have "more daring projects and more wide ideas" than other politicians. But we are to consider how little critical popular admiration is. This "Liberal" fame of his comes from his conjunction with the Whigs, and his having the chance of display on the great Whig platform. It is the direction of his talent and his animal spirits towards a point, determined, as much as anything, by accident. Had Toryism of the pre-Reform bill period lasted till now, he would have been a Tory; but he still would have been a more popular man

than the other Tories. As, however, it fell, he carried his attractions into Whiggery, and so at once united them with the cause that was in luck. The Radicals are now trying to undo all that, but they will not succeed in his life-time, unless he commits some very great imprudence. He is the last of a school, but his fame will "last his time."

What, then, is our conclusion as to his attitude towards the Emperors? We may premise that we do not consider him speculatively illiberal, or much of a speculatively prejudiced man either way. We do not think him (on the other hand) indebted for that buoyancy and gaiety, of which we hear so much, to any especial warmth of heart—rather to temperament, first; and second, to his having found its value. Again, nothing is more common (among eighteenth-century men especially) than very considerable personal aristocracy of feeling, with unhesitating severity towards potentates with whom he is brought in political contact. Nay, we believe that, at bottom, he is perhaps more contemptuous in his notions of the despotic system of Europe than many think. But when we are asked what kind of action we expect from him, we are bound to say that our expectations are most moderate. Just at present—except in places where there is more than average suffering, like Naples—Europe is not much given to political ideals. It is acquiescent in the actual. At home we have complete quiet; in France, they are not yet weary of the last new Government, or not prepared to change it; the rest of the world does not move till France moves; and if Russia only holds her tongue, and is tolerably moderate, nobody is likely to interfere with her activity. Italy—which is chronically ill—has been more excited, of course, lately; but yet her excitement is not so much of the regular revolutionary character as we have seen it. Such being the state of things, Palmerston is not likely to disturb it much, because his knack is managing the time—because a great section of the Liberals, who used to abuse "despots," have been frightened by the war—because he has got in his crop of "liberal" popularity, and housed it—because he is hampered, as Premier, by influences of a pacific character—and because he is obliged to consult the French alliance. We expect to see Bomba, after all said and done, get off with a fright; and though the results should shake the belief of those who identified Lord Palmerston with abstract Liberalism, we do not think they ought to surprise, in the least, the philosophical observer of the man and his times.



PHEASANT SHOOTING.—(DESIGNED BY R. ANDRELL.)

RETRIEVING.

BY HARRY HIEOVER.

THE season is now at hand when we may expect a vast migration of grouse shooters southwards. We use the term vast in its literal sense, for within the last few years it has not been the same as formerly. We have no longer mere a score or two of gentlemen of enthusiastic temperament and large means, visiting the North during the month before partridge shooting begins, but a vast influx of persons of all grades, who have money sufficient to secure a moor, or at least the right of shooting over one, and who literally "throng" to the heather, just as others do to a fashionable watering place. We should be the last to rejoice at the sportsman being disappointed in his pleasures and anticipations; but when we find that Cockney millionaires and noblemen with long rent-rolls are ready to pay any sum that may be demanded of them, to the exclusion of the true sportsman, we do feel a certain gratification in knowing that for this season at least, so far as sporting goes, their expectations have failed in being realised.

The less ambitious sportsman has had, let us hope, a fair beginning of the partridge shooting season, and now the pheasant shooter feels—

"His hopes awaken and his spirits soar."

We quite admit that pheasant shooting is a more aristocratic amusement than the less pretentious pursuit of the partridge. The farmer who may hold a few hundred acres of his own, or who may rent his farm and enjoy the privilege of shooting over the lands of his neighbours, may (if permitted by his landlord to shoot at all) indulge in his favourite amusement; but the pheasant shooter must have his preserves, his keepers and watchers, and will have in all probability his team of spaniels.

This brings us to the subject of our engraving, which, like all Ansdell's designs, is abundantly characteristic. We may imagine the dog to have just acted in obedience to the command, "Go seek," or "Go fetch"—the terms are somewhat synonymous, and produce the same result, the slight difference being, if game falls out of sight wounded or dead, the term "Go seek" is the most appropriate. When it falls in sight, the simple "Go fetch" is used, just as it is if we send a dog to fetch a ball thrown from the hand.

Various opinions have been mooted as to the expediency of teaching sporting dogs to retrieve, or of using a regularly broke retriever for such a purpose. The chief, indeed the only objection, that can be alleged against the practice is this:—

With regard to teaching any habit to a dog or horse, or indeed any animal, to whom we cannot verbally explain our wishes, we consider that, after having taught him what we desire, prudence, justice, and indeed humanity, calls on us to remove any temptation that might cause him to disregard what he has learned: in short, we are bound to render his education as simple as possible. We will suppose that we have a setter well broke: we will say that, being a young, high-couraged, and somewhat impetuous dog, we had great trouble in restraining him to "down charge;" we will suppose that we succeeded at last, and that he is in that particular perfect and quite steady:—ware, sportsman, how you attempt to teach such a dog to retrieve. We will say that he is in his second season—for we will suppose that no sportsman would aim at instructing him up to that degree of perfection, which might be dispensed with until he became well grounded and practised in the first and all but indispensable one. It is true, we will say, that the dog first comes to "down charge" ere he receives the command, or rather permission, to "Go fetch," for which he will wait impatiently. If he indulges his impulse, and bolts off after the shot bird before he has permission, he is in this case, most likely, corrected with more or less judgment. If we properly rate him on his starting off, cause him to return, and content ourselves by laying hold of his ear, and show him by our voice and action that he has committed a serious offence, it would even then require absolute reflection in the dog to enable him to come to the conclusion that he was not corrected for doing what he had been taught to do, but for doing it prematurely. If he does not answer to our rate and call, and return, but pursues his way to the shot bird, brings it, and lays it down at our feet, expecting encouragement for having, as he conceived, done his best to please us—hard, I say, must be the heart that could severely punish him. He has done wrong, and he has done right; his latter act is a commendable one. How are we to make him reflect (for it would require decided reflection), and be convinced it was for the primary act we corrected him? The dog is not to blame that he has not the powers of reflection to enable him to come to the right conclusion, but the man who has (all but useless as such attributes appear to be to many people) is very much to blame for punishing an animal under such circumstances as the one particularised, or indeed many others.

We remember to have heard or read of a gentleman, who, when hunting, was so enthusiastic the moment a fox showed his nose that he could not help giving a "Tally-ho!" which caused many a fox to return into cover. At last the master of the hounds entered into a compromise with him. It was agreed that in future he should count one hundred when he saw a fox before he hallooed. He was then allowed to tally-ho to his heart's content. If people would count one hundred before they corrected a dog, we cannot but think that in the majority of cases it would be an improvement.

We must allow that we are strongly inclined to keep each dog for his particular purpose. We know that spaniels of different kinds, beagles, nay terriers, have been all used in pheasant shooting, instead of pointers, or setters. Of this practice we shall venture to give our opinion in some future article. We are now on the subject of retrieving, and we cannot but hold that a thoroughly well broke retriever, kept for this purpose only, will do his business better than any setter or pointer living, and will leave them to perform their duties without the risk of causing disappointment to the shot, or of procuring punishment for themselves.

If a sportsman has more than one dog out who retrieves, the one kept from fetching the bird is disappointed. We will not offend the sportsman by supposing him guilty of the absurdity of sending more than one dog after a bird—it would be like sending two rude boys to fetch an alabaster vase or a lace veil. Each would seize it, and in the contention for possession the vase would be broken or the veil rent. A similar result would be the case if a couple of dogs were sent after a shot bird. The sportsman would probably get the bird, but Brag would bring the head, neck, and one wing, while Dan would complacently place before him the remainder of the mutilated body.

Our crowded columns compel us to "Down charge." We wait with impatience for the "Hic on" which other subjects will give us.

COFFEE AS A DEODORISER.—Now that the "sporting season" is again in its prime, we beg to remind sportsmen and others that fresh-ground coffee is a perfect and safe deodoriser: a sprinkling will keep game fresh and sweet for several days. Clean your game—that is, wipe off the blood—cover the wounded parts with absorbent paper, wrap up the heads, and then sprinkle ground-coffee over and amongst the feathers or fur, as the case may be: pack up carefully, and the game will be preserved fresh and sweet in the most unfavourable weather. Game sent open and loose cannot, of course, be treated in this manner; but all game packed in boxes or hampers may be deodorised as described. A tea-spoonful of coffee is enough for a brace of birds, and in this proportion for more or for larger game. Fresh-ground coffee may be used with advantage in a sick room; a few spoonfuls spread and exposed on a plate: burned by a red-hot iron it is a safe and pleasant fumigator. Should any of our sporting friends care to send us any game from the moors, we hope they will not forget the coffee.

THE WEEB QUESTION.—A crusade has lately been taken up in agricultural districts against weeds. Farmers are enjoined to allow no weed to grow anywhere; and it is in some districts a part of the "whole duty" of the infant school children to go out into the lanes and byways, rooting out every weed they may find. The argument is, that from the weeds in the lanes and elsewhere, the seed gets dispersed among the farmers' crops, which seems a very good argument. But the "Spectator" suggestively remarks:—"A question arises out of this nation I movement against ground-el, dock, this le, &c. Hedges and birds have been abashed in some counties, and it is found that insects have multiplied: do weeds serve a purpose which compensates the mischief they do? It would be well to try their total extirpation on some limited area before extending it to a nation. Possibly a nation might be the poorer when absolutely stripped of its urdock, nettle, and chickweed."

AT ABO, IN FINLAND, the cold has been so intense as to freeze the standing corn; it had to be cut down and given as forage to the cattle. Considerable fears are excited for the supply of food next year, as the districts thus affected are those which are the most fertile in corn.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

COUNT WALEWSKI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, has sent a circular to the French diplomatic agents at foreign courts, in answer to that of Russia of Sept. 2. According to what we have heard of this new document, the French Government repels the reproaches of Prince Gortschakoff, and adduces arguments to prove that the conduct of France and England in the Neapolitan affair has been erroneously represented as contrary to existing treaties, and to the public right of Europe.

Marshal Castellane, Commander-in-Chief at Lyons, has arrived at Paris, having, it is said, been sent for by the Government.

The Emperor Napoleon, in order to give proof of his solicitude for the working classes at Lyons, (and for his own reputation in the provinces), has just given an order for silk stuffs of Lyons manufacture to the value of 100,000 francs.

The French journals have been very much occupied in discussing the prolonged occupation of the Principalities by Austria; it is generally characterised as a manifest violation of the Treaty of Paris.

A Queen's messenger has passed through Paris for Naples with despatches. It is quite possible that he takes orders for the recall of her Majesty's mission.

SPAIN.

O'DONNELL has resigned, and with him all his colleagues. The Queen has accepted their resignations. Narvaez was called upon to form a new Cabinet. He accepted the invitation, and the new Spanish Ministry is composed as follows:—Narvaez, President of the Council; Pidal, Foreign Affairs; Seijas, Finances; Nocedal, Interior; Arasola, Justice; Urbistondo, War; Lersundi, Marine.

General Sanz has been appointed Captain-General of Madrid, and General Pezuela Director of Cavalry.

It is superfluous to say who and what Marshal Narvaez is. M. Pidal, now for the second time Minister of Foreign Affairs, is, with his brother-in-law, M. Mon, an ardent partisan of Maria Christina. He was Minister of the Interior in 1845 G. He is a violent partisan, and once declared in Parliament, that Lord Palmerston was the object of his especial hatred. He was made a marquis for the support he gave to the Spanish marriages. Seijas Lozano is a member of the bar of considerable learning. He is also a Moderado, and figured in various Cabinets. Nocedal, or, as he was more familiarly termed, Nocedalite, was at one time an ardent, almost a revolutionary Liberal. He modified his opinions as the chances opened to him of place, and became attached in 1847 to the Puritans, or Tiers Parti, at whose head was M. Pacheco. He is an advocate of no great professional reputation. Arasola, also a member of the same learned profession, has filled the high office of President to the Tribunal of Justice. He has been Minister of Grace and Justice in several Cabinets, a Moderado-Christina, and personally honest. Urbistondo was a general officer in the Carlist army until 1840; he deserted the cause of the Pretender when it was in its decline, passed over to the Christina camp, and took advantage of the treaty of Bergara. He was implicated in the O'Donnell plot in 1841. He is supposed not entirely to have forgotten his Carlist tendencies. General Lersundi figured as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Bravo Murillo Ministry, and was one of those who was preparing the coup d'état previous to the formation of the Sartorius or San Luis Ministry. He was implicated in the Diego Leon insurrection in Madrid in 1841, when the project was to take off the Queen to France or to the Basque provinces. He succeeded in escaping to France, where he resided till the fall of Espartero in 1843. He is said to be a gallant soldier, but nothing more.

The drawing of the recruits for the provincial militias was proceeding throughout the kingdom without the least resistance, and in the greatest order.

The "Espana" announces that Queen Christina intends to spend the winter at Rome, with her daughter, the Princess of Drago, who is on the point of being confined. The accouchement of the Duchess de Montpensier is shortly expected.

AUSTRIA.

WORKMEN are actively employed at present on the various fortified places of Galicia, and large sums are appropriated to the works, the intention being to establish in Austrian Poland a system of fortifications not inferior to those in Russian Poland. Hitherto there have been on the north-west frontier only the fortified places of Olmutz and Pzenusl. But much more now is to be effected, and the places just mentioned are to be greatly enlarged, so as to be able, like Verona, in Italy, to accommodate a numerous body of forces.

A letter from Vienna, says, "The Austrian war-steamer *Elizabeth* has received orders at Trieste to go to the Bay of Naples, not to make a demonstration, but to station there. In his communications with Baron Hüner, King Ferdinand did not reject the good counsels of Austria and France, and he has followed them to a certain extent, but he refuses to cede to the demands of England, and Russia encourages him in his resistance."

Signor Salvador Bermudez Castro has been appointed Ambassador of Spain at the Austrian Court.

PRUSSIA.

THE measures which the Prussian Government means to take with respect to Switzerland, if the latter refuses to recognise its rights over Neuchâtel, will not be of a military character. "Our Cabinet," says a letter from Berlin, "has attentively studied the exports and imports of Switzerland, and it has ascertained that an interruption of commerce between Switzerland and Germany would be very prejudicial to the former, whilst the latter would receive but little injury; it accordingly will submit to the German Diet a proposition for excluding Swiss productions from the German markets."

The Disciplinary Court recently condemned M. Seiffarts, director of the Superior Chamber of Accounts, to dismissal, without retiring pension, for being concerned in the robbery of the despatches at Potsdam. Councillor Seiffarts has given notice of appeal to the Council of Ministers. *En attendant*, he has sent in his resignation as Member of the Chamber of Deputies.

RUSSIA.

THE Russian *festes* are now all concluded.—A grand display of fireworks concluded the festivities; and nothing now remains but the recollection of the fine sights, and the settlement of the little bill, which will exceed £1,000,000 sterling. The last great sight, the fireworks, cost £4,000 for pyrotechnic materials alone.

A letter from Berlin says:—"Amongst the numerous couriers who have passed through this city within the last few days on their way from St. Petersburg to Paris, is M. Gervais, Councillor of State, who, I can state on sure information, carries to Paris the definitive resolution of Russia as to the assembling of a second congress in that city, to settle the questions of the East, Naples, Greece, and Neuchâtel." This statement has since been confirmed.

ITALY.

THE Neapolitan question remains unchanged; though French diplomacy yet hopes for a concession on the part of King Ferdinand. The Neapolitan ruler has abandoned the defence of his conduct to the Cabinets of St. Petersburg and Vienna, and these have laid the foundation of a future reconciliation in the similarity of views entertained by them in reference to the question of Naples. That the French Government will persist in its present patient policy is scarcely to be expected, and the inaction to which it has hitherto condemned itself has probably been dictated entirely by deference to the representations of Austria. We continue to remark in the German papers notices of notes sent by Russia to Vienna and Paris, protesting against the reported intervention in Naples. Russia especially entreats Austria to "protect the principle of sovereignty," and an appeal is made to the "moderation" of France.

It is stated on good authority, however, that a note was despatched on Saturday to Naples by the French Government. In it the King is informed that if he persists in rejecting the advice of the Allied Governments, Baron Brenier, the Minister of France at Naples, would be withdrawn,

and all diplomatic relations cease. It is also believed that a similar communication has been made by the English Government. If the Ministers are recalled, the fleets will proceed to the Bay of Naples, for the protection of the French and English residents.

There was a rumour afloat lately that the King of Naples had written autograph letters to Queen Victoria and the Emperor Napoleon, offering to submit the Neapolitan question to the Paris Congress; this is contradicted by our Paris letters. On the contrary, it is said that the King will not allow any one to speak to him on existing difficulties; and that the members of the Royal family have been commanded not to offer their advice. Meanwhile, the preparations for the defence of the city are still going on.

The following notice, in writing, has lately been stuck on the walls of Naples:—"Two fleets have been lost in the Mediterranean. Should any one find them, and bring notice of them to a minister, he shall be rewarded."

The French surveying vessel, the *Meteor*, has been very active in taking soundings in the Bay of Naples just outside the port which is used as an anchorage for foreign vessels of war.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany complains of the crowd of English tourists who invade his state, and who put themselves in communication with the revolutionary chiefs, thereby encouraging agitation.

The "Official Gazette" of Milan says the Emperor of Austria will not visit that city until January.

M. de Bruck, son of the present Minister of Finance, at Vienna has joined the Austrian Embassy at Turin, as attaché.

SWITZERLAND.

THE Federal Government of Switzerland has resolved, in concert with the executive authorities of Neuchâtel, that the canton shall continue in the occupation of federal troops until the conclusion of the trials of the Royalist prisoners.

The Grand Council of Neuchâtel, before closing its session on the 9th inst., voted that the Republican troops who suppressed the insurrection had merited the thanks of the country. The Royalists in the Council concurred in this vote—an act by which they seem formally to abdicate the position they have hitherto occupied, and to announce the dissolution of their party.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

A FEW days ago was published a document, bearing the signature of Fud Pacha, in which that minister asserted the right of the Sultan to annex the isles of the Danube directly to his empire, and to exercise full sovereign rights over them, instead of permitting their incorporation with Moldavia, and accepting the relation of lord paramount. The "Dobruja" says, that Russia resisted this claim at first, but that the Cabinets of Vienna and London having pronounced in favour of Turkey, the Czar has given way.

The Bolgrad difficulty remains in all its force.

The Chief Judge, Chikri, the opponent of all reforms, has excited disturbances at Kutais. The Porte has ordered troops to march thither. Some uneasiness is felt for the tranquility of Syria.

French journals speak of the rumoured occupation of Galatz by 4,000 Austrians as "possible," and quote the statement that the occupation had actually taken place. We repeat these reports, but no authentic account of any such movement has it seems reached town.

A Turkish General has gone on a mission to Albania and the Herzegovina. By some reports, the Turkish General is no other than Omar Pacha.

AMERICA.

AMERICAN news is dull. The presidential election continues to roll forth its due share of excitement and stump oratory, but nothing interesting to European readers.

It is reported from Washington that the Administration will shortly make a demand upon New Granada for the outrages committed upon the Americans at Panama during the riot.

In Brooklyn there was a panic in consequence of the prevalence of yellow fever; but exaggerated reports were in circulation as to the progress of the disease. Several new cases had been reported at Fort Hamilton.

The latest accounts from Kansas say that the territory is tranquil.

From Nicaragua we hear that it is reported that General Walker has executed a number of officers and soldiers for insubordination, and that military anarchy prevailed all over the Republic. It is current at Panama that a treaty of peace has been signed between General Walker and the Governor of Costa Rica.

DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS IN CIRCASSIA.

ADVICES from Constantinople, of the 9th inst., state that Selar Pacha has gained two victories over the Russians in Circassia, and has taken from them about 800 prisoners and 21 guns.

SAILING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.

WE have intelligence from Ajaccio to the 14th. Admiral Dundas, having received telegraphic instructions from the Admiralty, by way of France, has left Ajaccio with his squadron.

At Toulon it is rumoured that the French squadron is about to set sail.

PRUSSIA AND POISON.—The Prussian Government, by a new decree, pronounces the sentence of death against any one selling poisons, and by which the life of another has been sacrificed. The punishment for lesser degrees of crime of that kind—for instance, the selling of articles of food with noxious substances—is punished by fifteen years' hard labour, &c. Other adulterations are treated as acts of cheating.

A NASTY DILEMMA.—A curious occurrence is related as having taken place last week on the territory of Hamburg. Several cattle dealers had crossed the territory from Holstein to the frontier of Mecklenburg with large herds of oxen, but were not allowed to enter the latter duchy, an order having just been issued to refuse all cattle from Holstein, a contagious disorder being supposed to prevail there. The dealers turned their faces homeward, but when they arrived at the Holstein frontier, they found that in the interval a similar anathema had been hurled there against cattle coming from Mecklenburg; so that the poor fellows are now encamped between the two countries, not knowing which way to go.

RELIGION IN MALTA.—A Malta correspondent writes, under date of the 9th:—"A few days ago, a black American sailor, in a state of drunkenness, drew a knife on a priest, a most heinous crime at Malta. He was instantly secured by the police, and all who knew anything of Malta considered his case a desperate one, for to insult a priest is an unpardonable crime. His shipmates consulted the best lawyer in the town, whose advice was, 'Stick to it through thick and thin that you are a devout Catholic; look horrified if you are asked to kiss the Bible; but show great devotion to the cross; and the only pleading is to call upon the blessed Virgin for protection; make no other defence.' When the sailor was called before the magistrate, his lawyer was heard to urge him not to 'forget his religion.' Jack followed these directions, and was acquitted; after which he and his shipmates declared that whenever they were in for a row they should hoist Roman Catholic colours."

ARREST OF A MINISTER PLENIPOOTENTIARY FOR SWINDLING.—Don Vicent Hernandez de Ayala, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary from the Republics of Venezuela and Granada, &c. &c., was arrested in America on charges of forgery and swindling. After his arrest he made an attempt to swallow forged draughts to the amount of six thousand dollars, but was prevented by a prompt squeeze on the throat.

A ROMANCE IN THE HAVANA.—The Havana correspondent of the "New York Herald" writes:—"At Matanzas there resides a merchant of the highest respectability, named T. Some time since he sent his wife and children to Madrid, where an English governess was engaged to superintend the education of the children. The Señora T. it appears, received the visits of a gentleman, which being discovered by the English governess, she gave notice of her intention to leave, and threatened to inform Señor T. unless the visits of the paramour were discontinued. This threat so incensed the Señora T. that she procured poison, and administered it to the English governess, who in consequence died. The British authorities at Madrid, hearing of the affair, caused the Señora T. to be prosecuted. She was accordingly tried, found guilty, and suffered death by the vile garrote."

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO AN AUSTRALIAN EMIGRANT SHIP.—Accounts from Lisbon, received on Monday, announce that the Royal Mail ship "Tiptree," Captain Piel, of the White Star line of Austral packets, with 500 emigrants on board, was compelled to put into that port, October 8th, with loss of sails, topmasts, caps, and cross-tees, foremasthead sprung, and leaky, having encountered a fearful gale from S.W., N.E. of Cape Finisterre. The "Tiptree" sailed from Liverpool for Melbourne, September 21st.

BURNING OF THE STEAMER NIAGARA, AND LOSS OF ONE HUNDRED LIVES.

We learn the following particulars of the burning of the Collingwood steamer Niagara, and the loss of about 100 passengers and crew.—

On the afternoon of September 25, the officers of the steamer Traveller, while at the pier at Port Washington, discovered to the north about twelve miles a vessel of smoke and steam, and on bringing a glass to bear they discovered that it was the steamer Niagara in flames. They at once got up steam for the burning vessel, which they reached in about three-quarters of an hour. When they reached her she was one mass of flames, and all hands, including Captain Miller and seven passengers, had left the wreck. These were taken to the wharves, and were at once rescued. The propeller Illinois took up a number of passengers, and landed them at Port Washington. The schooner Dan Marble saved about thirty, and also took them into Port Washington. Only the Niagara was successful in saving any passengers, and this one was twenty-two. Captain Miller thinks the whole number of passengers was about 150, so that the loss of passengers must have been about eighty souls, many of whom were women and children.

Mr. Harvey Ainsworth, a gentleman from Royalton, Windsor Co., Vermont, was aboard with his wife, three children, father, and sister-in-law, with a child. He and all the party were saved. Mr. Ainsworth was standing alone on the deck of the boat on the hurricane deck, when he first saw the smoke and streaks of fire breaking through the deck, above the engine, between the beams. He immediately ran forward to where his family were standing. The cry of "Fire," and the immediately raised from a score of voices. Men, women, and children, fled to the guards and sprang shrieking into the water. Mr. Ainsworth gathered his family around him, uncoiled the large hawser at the bow, and threw it over the guards. He then let his wife and children down, and finally descended into the noose of the hawser himself, and hung fast until the flames had passed off the rope and let him drop into the water. Mr. Ainsworth then got out of a boat upside down, to which a number of poor drowning wretches were clinging in the last agonies of death. He thinks that at least a dozen persons were hanging to the boat when he seized hold. One after another of these dropped off, until only himself remained. He then succeeded in getting three men out of the boat with him. The four persons were all finally picked up by a small boat from the schooner. Mr. Ainsworth thinks that there were about 100 passengers on board when the boat left Shelbyton, besides a large number of crew. He states that the conduct of Captain Miller was well calculated to quiet the terror and save the lives of the passengers, and that he was the last man to leave the wreck of his burning vessel.

Captain Miller's statement is as follows:—I left Collingwood on the 22nd inst., at 10 o'clock p.m. The crew informed me that we had on board 105 tons of merchandise and passengers' baggage, twenty-one horses and several wagons, and about seventy-five cabin passengers. On arriving at Mackinac we took on more. Does not know the number of steerage deck passengers. The weather was first northerly. On the 24th of September, I went to my state-room to lie down, but was not called up, but on getting up I discovered that the boat was on fire, and I saw that it was about the stove pipe aft. I first met the third engineer, and then got to the hose on the pumps, and turned to go forward, and found the call of smoke; went to the pilot house; gave signal to the cook to put up the boat was headed towards the shore; the engine then stopped; was about five miles from shore and four to five miles from Port Washington; I left the boat, and the first mate then came forward; I asked him to get the axes, and the small boats and get them over; the mate then replied that the stern door was over and capsize; we then went to work and broke the state-room doors off and threw them overboard; I then went aft to the larboard side, and kicked the doors off and threw them overboard, together with the washstands and everything that I could get hold of; I remained aft as long as I could; then went below to the water wheel, where I was taken off by the Traveller's boat and taken on board.

The passengers had signed the following card:—"We, the undersigned, being a part of the surviving passengers of the steamer 'Niagara,' which was burned about six miles north of Port Washington, on the afternoon of the 24th of September, take this means of saying to the public that we believe that the captain and officers of the boat did all in their power, under the trying and extraordinary circumstances attending this calamity; and while we deeply deplore the terrible accident which has made desolate so many happy homes, and quenched the light of many a cheerful fireside, we feel that we cannot, with justice, lay any blame upon the captain or officers of the steamer, believing that they did all that was possible for them to do under the circumstances. The overturning of the boat the accident might not have occurred, but it was not three minutes after the fire broke out before all communication was cut off between the bow and stern of the boat. To the captains and crews of the schooner Dan Marble, the propeller Illinois, and steamer Traveller, we would return our sincere and heartfelt thanks for the assistance so nobly given in our time of need. May God reward them richly for their noble acts."

IRELAND.

MURDER OF A GAMEKEEPER NEAR CLOGHER.—On Sunday week a gamekeeper named William Cumberland, in the service of Mr. A. U. Gledstanes, was shot by poachers on the Ballynaguan mountain. He died in about three hours after receiving the wounds. It appeared that the deceased, seeing a party of five men, armed, and accompanied by three terriers and a grayhound, poaching on the mountain, proceeded in pursuit of them alone with seven men, but having only two guns in the party. When close on the poachers one of them named Cumberland to return, or he would shoot him, but this deceased refused to do, and followed a short distance till he secured the grayhound. One of the men then turned and shot Cumberland in the arms and legs, inflicting both severely with slugs. He fell on his knee, when another fellow ran up and loaded the contents of his gun in the poor fellow's breast. Another of Cumberland's party seized the dog, when the poachers fired three shots, wounding two of the men in the face and another in the breast. One of the pursuing party then snatched a flint gun at a poacher, which missed fire, but Thomas Cairns, deceased's son-in-law, fired and struck one of the fellows, who fell. He rose and fell again, but succeeded in getting off, owing to the confusion created by Cumberland's wounds. Three persons have been arrested and lodged in Clogher Road on suspicion.

STEELER SOLD UP.—The sale of Mr. James Sadler's effects was resumed and closed on Thursday week. It is calculated that the proceeds will not much exceed £100.

THE ARMY IN IRELAND.—A general order from the Dublin War-office directs, in conformity with instructions from the Secretary of State for War, that the districts of Limerick, Belfast, and Kilkenny, shall cease to be military commands; and orders Major-Generals Chatterton and Gough to the commandant on the Otago, "for the purpose of assuming command of their respective brigades."

SCOTLAND.

EXTRAORDINARY OUTRAGE.—A young woman, named Elizabeth Munro, a domestic servant, at Kilmory, Loch, had occasion to visit Dunoon to make some purchases, and accepted the offer of a sail thither in a small rowing boat from a man named Hugh Murray. The two left Kilmory about six o'clock. Instead of proceeding to Dunoon, however, Murray presently shaped his course towards the opposite shore, contrary to the young woman's entreaties. When about half-way across, he made some overtures to his companion; she resisted. When the ruffian, seizing her by the wrists, dropped her over the gunwale of the boat. She shouted for help, and presently he took her into the boat, and pulled her to follow him. He got on shore there, and endeavored to persuade her to follow him; but she was terrified and would not go. He took the oars and rowed her in a dark night, to encountering the ruffian's violence on shore. Finding his threats of no avail, he re-embarked, and pulled away across the river. When about a mile from the shore, he resumed his violence, which she again stoutly resisted, and he again threw her into the river. She again cried long and lustily for help, and her cries at length attracted the attention of the crew of the smack Janet Taylor, of Greenock. Two men put off from the smack, and pulled with all speed towards the boat whence the cries were heard to proceed. By this time it was about ten o'clock at night. Murray, on seeing that he was observed, took his victim into the boat, and tried to quell her alarm. Meanwhile the men in the loaded boat on Murray's boat, when he warned them to keep off, saying, "They pressed upon him, however, and he pulled hard and tried to evade them, until he became exhausted, when the pursuers managed to board the boat with water, leaving Murray to proceed on his way to Dunoon. She was taken on board her rescuers proceeded at once to the procurator-fiscal of the county, and to Dunoon in quest of Murray, in whose house they found his wife in a state of alarm and grief, evidently aware of the position of her husband. It seems that Murray arrived home about twelve o'clock at night, and having shifted his clothes disappeared. Murray has been long resident in Dunoon engaged in his trade as a mason.

THE CRIMINAL BANQUET AT EDINBURGH.—The arrangements for this banquet for the last time, are proceeding, says the "Scotsman," in the most satisfactory manner. Upwards of 1,500 persons will be present, including Lord Melville and the Earl of Dalkeith, Lord Deas, Lord Neaves, Sir George Clerk, Sir William Gibson-Craig, Sir Alexander Gibson-Maitland, Sir William J. Foulis, the Hon. R. F. Primrose, Mr. J. Hall Maxwell, C.B., Major Hugh Scott, Professor Atwood, Professor Christison, Professor Miller, Mr. C. Halkett Inglis, &c.

THE PROVINCES.

COLLIERY ACCIDENTS.—At the Cuckoo, Stevenston Colliery, Holytown, last week, two men went into another place than their own to bring up what is called "cut" for themselves. After taking down the coal they began to fill a bucket with it, when a large mass of the roof stone gave way, and killed them both on the spot. Another accident has also happened at the Pryn Mally Colliery. On Thursday week, as Robert Kenwick, head engineer of the pump, was standing in the shaft on a platform changing the buckets of the winding fell on him. His body was recovered in a few hours, but of course life was extinct. The engines employed to pump out the water from the flooded workings of this mine are proceeding very satisfactorily. Three men, Joseph Crossland, James Wright, and John Holton, lost their lives on Monday week in the Newton Colliery, near Ferrybridge, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. They were descending the shaft of the colliery, which is 126 feet deep, when the sides of the shaft suddenly collapsed, and a large quantity of earth and other materials fell upon them. The three unfortunate men were killed. The primary cause of the accident is supposed to have been the heavy rains.

THE AGAPEMONITES AT TAUNTON.—Brother Starkey and Brother Thomas, the shining lights of the Agape, held forth in the Assembly Rooms, Taunton, on Friday week. After the usual ferrago of blasphemy and nonsense, the audience came to the following resolution most unanimously:—"That the opinions that have been expressed here this evening by the speakers from the Agape, in the opinion of this meeting, blasphemous towards God, entirely opposed to the teaching of Jesus Christ, and degrading to humanity."

ART TREASURES EXHIBITION, MANCHESTER.—Since the offer made by his Royal Highness Prince Albert to contribute the whole of his gallery of works belonging to the early Italian and German schools, other possessors of these curious and valuable pictures have offered the loan of them. It was thought that the collection of his Royal Highness was almost the only one existing in the kingdom; but the inquiries of the committee have brought to light extensive collections in the hands of private persons. The contributions from various sources and of various schools promise to render this exhibition extremely rich.

A WHALE IN THE MERSEY.—A whale has been caught in a shoal in the Mersey. The animal being evidently exhausted by its violent throes was reached by some fishermen, who firmly secured it by ropes to the boats. They waited the return of the tide, and towed their prize into a small inlet between Speke and Halehead, called Oggett. The whale is twenty-four feet long, twelve and a half broad, and upwards of three tons weight. It is said to be the first whale ever caught in the Mersey.

SUNDAY AT YORK.—A correspondence between the Lord Mayor of York and Lieutenant-Colonel Crompton on the subject of Sunday bands has been published. It appears that the Lieutenant-Colonel permitted the band of the 2nd West York Light Infantry to play on the North Walk on Sunday afternoon, when the Lord Mayor interfered. The circumstance has caused much excitement in the city, and a public meeting is announced to be held.

PUGILISM ON THE BENCH.—At the Haddington petty sessions recently, the magistrates had under consideration the propriety of granting a publican's licence, and two were opposed to it. A warm debate ensued, during which one of the magistrates used some vulgar and abusive language relative to the other. In consequence of some reference being made to one of the magistrates having married a barmaid, the gentleman to whom the observation referred struck the other on the face with his cane, and a regular battle ensued in court. One of the gentlemen, in being conveyed home, fainted on the way.

SUICIDE FROM SHAME.—Mary Ann Crighton, aged 35, wife of John Crighton, seaman, was occasionally in the habit of drinking, and on Saturday night was taken into custody for being drunk and creating a disturbance in Bond Street (Hartlepool). This so preyed on her mind, that she took laudanum, from the effects of which she died.

THE REFORMATORY MOVEMENT.—The Castle Howard Reformatory Institute was formally discussed at a public meeting at York last week. The school it appeared was opened in May last, in some provisional building given by Lord Carlisle. For the clearer understanding of the financial prospects of the society, the committee presented an estimate of the annual receipts and expenditure, which may be expected on the assumption that the school contained forty pupils. On the side of expenditure the calculation stands as follows:—Food and clothing, with coals and candles, £640; rent of the land, with rates and taxes, £70; salaries, allowances, and wages, £335; general expenses of the society and school, £100; making a total of £1,145. On the other side of the account the society may expect to receive at the end of a year during which the school shall have contained forty pupils:—1. Government allowances, for maintenance of pupils, for half the salaries of two masters, for half the rent of building and farm, £918. 2. Produce of farms, after paying for seeds and manure, £100. 3. Present amount of annual subscription, £180; making a total of £1,198. On this calculation, there would appear to be a balance of £53 in favour of the society; but against this is to be placed the necessity which the committee foresee for increased means of superintendence and tuition, when the number of pupils shall have been multiplied. The meeting was attended by several influential men. Resolutions in support of the society were carried, and a committee appointed to carry on the work.

A SNAKE IN THE CUSTOMS.—An occurrence of a very remarkable kind took place on Tuesday week at the Custom House, Pill, near Bristol. One of the boatmen was in the act of entering the watch-room, for the purpose of looking out, when he heard a curious hissing noise, and on attempting to ascertain by what it was occasioned he saw a large snake on the floor. The creature at first crested at him, but in a moment darted into a corner and coiled himself up. The man immediately got his blue jersey shirt, for the purpose of throwing over it, when the venomous reptile again began to rear his crest, apparently with the intention of darting at his assailant. Means were now taken to kill the creature, which was done by means of a piece of rope. The snake, which is of a foreign species, and exceedingly venomous, measures twenty-eight inches in length, and has a bright yellow mark round the neck. It is conjectured that he must have by some means been brought from an African or other foreign ship, on board of which the flicers had been to rummage. At the time when it was discovered there were several children about the place, and a bed-room close to the watch house is slept in by some of the younger branches of the surveyor's own family.

SHOCKING DEATH OF THE HON. BERTRAM WODEHOUSE.—At Exeter, on Saturday evening, an inquest was held on the body of the Hon. Bertram Wodehouse, formerly a military officer. Mr. J. Pratt, proprietor of the New London Hotel (where deceased went on his arrival in Exeter), said:—On Saturday, October 4th, deceased sent for me, and going in the direction of his room I met him. Deceased was in a very excited state, and pressed me to take a bottle of wine with him, which I declined. On the following Monday evening deceased returned to the hotel much the worse for liquor, which induced me to give orders that his bill should be sent in. This was done, and the amount paid. On the following evening deceased was again the worse for liquor, and expressed a hope that I had not sent in my bill for fear of not being paid. I assured him it was not so, and I advised deceased to go into private lodgings. I afterwards learned that deceased had gone to lodge with one of my waiters. Deceased was a perfect gentleman, and exceedingly well-beloved and quiet. Mr. W. C. Hunt, surgeon, Exeter, stated that he was called to the deceased about one o'clock on Friday. He was then in bed, with a bottle of ale in his hand, of which he occasionally partook. Deceased was not unconscious; witness tried to take the bottle from him, but he would not give it up. Deceased was powerless, his legs and arms were quite cold, he had a small cut on the right side of the head, which was not however of much importance, and was evidently in a dying state. Witness warned him that his life was in danger, and that he would certainly die unless he took what he (the witness) would prescribe for him. Witness then succeeded with much difficulty in getting the bottle of ale out of his hand. He then applied some warmth to his feet and legs, and a mustard poultice over the heart. Deceased also swallowed a little tea, which was brought up again. Witness remained with him until he died, at a quarter past two on Friday afternoon, never having rallied in the least. He was continually asking for bitter beer and brandy and soda, and the last thing he did was to raise himself on his elbow and ask for cold water. Witness gave him a little, and he then sank back and died. Witness considered that deceased died from exhaustion consequent upon excessive drinking, and his not taking any animal food. He did not believe that death was accelerated by the cut on the animal forehead. When witness to deceased he thought he would die, the latter said, "Oh, no! not so bad as that." The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of "Died from exhaustion, consequent on excessive drinking."

CHELTENHAM ATHENÆUM.—The opening lecture of the series announced to be given under the auspices of the above institution, was delivered at the Cheltenham Town Hall, on Monday evening, by Dr. Humphreys, its president, the subject of his paper being the "Moral, Intellectual, and Industrial Tendencies of the Present Age." The attendance was very good, amounting altogether to upwards of 900 persons.

ROBBERY OF PICTURES FROM THE EARL OF SUFFOLK'S GALLERY.—An extensive robbery of valuable paintings recently took place under circumstances of an extraordinary nature at Charlton Park, Wiltshire, the seat of the Earl of Suffolk. The thieves contrived to obtain admission to the picture gallery, and adroitly took from their frames some valuable paintings, doubtless for the purpose of more convenient removal and to avoid recognition. The pictures stolen are a "Virgin and Child," by Leonardo da Vinci; two Landscapes, by Gaspar Poussin; a "Virgin and Child," by Procaccio; "Le Raboteur," by Annali Carracci; "Head of our Saviour," by Guido; "The Nativity," by Guido; a Seapiece, by Vanderveelde; "Interior of a Dutch House," by Van der Heyden; and "A View of Troia," by Poussin. The police lost no time in circulating amongst the picture dealers and pawnbrokers information of the robbery, with a description of the pictures.

MATTERS AGRICULTURAL.

The Grantham annual exhibition of stock and the ploughing match came off on Friday week. At the dinner, the chair was taken by Sir Montague Cholmondeley, supported by the Mayor of Grantham. Sir J. Trollope, M.P., was present, and spoke against the collection of agricultural statistics, at the same time lauding Her Majesty's Opposition, of which he boasts himself a member.

On the previous day, the third annual exhibition and show of stock of the Bridenorth Agricultural Association, took place in the cricket field adjoining the town. The show, which was well sustained in all its departments, was followed by a dinner, under the presidency of Mr. M. G. Benson. The attendance included Viscount Newport, M.P., Mr. H. Wiltmore, M.P., and Mr. John Pritchard, M.P. The toast of "The Members for the County" was responded to by Lord Newport, who, in the course of his remarks, also alluded to the late bill for the compulsory adoption of a system of agricultural statistics. He for one most sincerely rejoiced that the bill was defeated. In the abstract he entirely approved of agricultural statistics, but he ventured to think that the information should be obtained by a voluntary, and not a compulsory mode. We conclude that this speech must have been made at an advanced period of the evening; for his Lordship neglected to add, that "statistics" so taken would be utterly and absurdly valueless.

The Surrey Agricultural Society held its annual meeting at Epsom last week. At the dinner, the Members, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Evelyn, and Mr. Drummond, duly attended. In the speeches of these gentlemen the question of agricultural statistics held a prominent place. Mr. Alcock and Mr. Evelyn agreed in denouncing an attempt at compulsory collection; but there agreement ended. Mr. Alcock thought they would be useful. Mr. Evelyn thought these statistics were intended to enable the foreign merchant and speculative dealer to undersell the farmer. Mr. Drummond took a characteristic position. "Now, gentlemen (said he), with regard to agricultural statistics, I am of opinion that there is a vast deal of humbug in the matter. I don't believe it is worth your while either to oppose them or adopt them. If anybody wants to know how many acres of wheat or of turnips or potatoes I grow, I'll tell him; but as to its being of the smallest use to any living man, I don't believe one word of it. People go mad, and nations are going mad, after these statistics."

The annual sale of extra stock, the property of Sir G. Dashwood, Bart., took place at Kilmington Park on Monday of last week. The biddings were spirited, and every lot was bona fide sold. The lambs averaged 27s. 6d. each, the Southdown shearlings 38s., the three-year-old steers about £16, and the younger animals proportionate prices.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

The failure of the Royal British Bank promises to be an excellent thing for the lawyers. A few weeks ago, it was sought to make the Company bankrupt, but the attempt failed; then it was ordered to be wound-up in Chancery; and now, on Thursday week, it was again brought into the Court of Bankruptcy, and Mr. Commissioner Evans granted an adjudication of bankruptcy. The proceeding was at the instance of Mr. Burke, who is a creditor for £523. The petition was based on the act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 111. After hearing Mr. Laker in support of the petition, the Commissioner said he had no alternative but to make the adjudication. The matter was then referred to Mr. Commissioner Holroyd, who immediately took the necessary steps to carry out the law. When Mr. Johnstone, the messenger of the Court, went to take possession of the head office of the Bank, his authority was resisted; he was informed that he would not be permitted to touch any books or property, the officers of the Court of Chancery being in legal possession; and due notices were served on the Bankruptcy officials. The same proceeding occurred at the branches. The directors had seven days to attempt to remove the adjudication; but on Tuesday, Mr. Commissioner Goulburn said the argument on the disputed adjudication would be heard on Monday next, at eleven o'clock, when he would have the able assistance of Mr. Commissioner Holroyd. He had looked at the different Acts of Parliament, and felt convinced that the bankruptcy and the other proceedings could properly be carried on at the same time, and he thought beneficially so.

Mr. Harding, the interim manager, has now been appointed official manager; and on Tuesday last, the Vice-Chancellor granted an injunction to restrain the official assignee of the Court of Bankruptcy and others from interfering in any way with the proceedings of the official manager. The summons taken out against Mr. Harding, for ejecting the messenger of the Bankruptcy Court, was abandoned when the day for hearing it arrived.

A serious question has presented itself, bearing on the contest as to the best mode of winding-up the Royal British Bank. It appears (says the "Times") City article) that by the terms of the lease of the mineral property in Wales held by the bank, and which has been estimated at a value of £40,000, the title to it will become void in case of the holder or holders passing under bankruptcy or taking the benefit of the Insolvent Act. In the event of the estate being wound up in Chancery, and the bankruptcy proceedings being superseded, this contingency would not arise.

MR. MACGREGOR'S EXCULPATION.

Mr. Macgregor has written a letter (not in the best English) to the newspapers, in which he says:—"With respect to the calumnies which have been charged against me, I need only advert to a simple narrative of facts. First, I was neither the projector nor founder of the British Bank. Mr. Menzies was the projector. Messrs. Mullens and Paddison, and Mr. Moxhay, then proprietors of the Commercial Bank, were those who first proposed to me to become a director while I was residing at Brighton, to which place Mr. Mullens, Mr. Menzies, and others came to persuade me to assist them to get a charter. I refused. Afterwards, on the ground that industrial traders, artisans, and shopkeepers had no banking facilities in London as in Scotland, I very imprudently consented to become a director. I relied implicitly on the manager and Mr. Mullens. They on the weekly board day placed before the board a statement of the affairs of the bank; and up to the time I left the direction I believed everything correct. Neither I nor any other director, as far as I am aware, knew anything of any private book kept by the manager, nor could I know the persons in the city whose paper was worthy of being discounted. Dannel and Scales were represented by the manager, on the authority of an eminent gentleman in the Bank of England, as fully trustworthy. This led to the disastrous advances on their coal and iron works in Wales; and which, so long as I was a director, I urged should be realised, instead of attempting to work them, a similar attempt on the part of the Bank of England having utterly failed. A second blunder was advancing on the security of Westminster Improvement Bonds; a third was on the shares of the Islington Cattle Market; a fourth was to a shipping firm, Oliver of Liverpool. Of the value of such securities I could know nothing; therefore I became convinced, but too late, that in the city of London—as is, I believe, the true and practicable custom in Glasgow—no one should be a director of a bank but a citizen man of business. For it was, and is, impossible for a purely west-end man (!) to know who ought, or ought not, to be trusted. It was under these convictions that I separated myself from all joint-stock connections. As regards liabilities to the Royal British Bank, I deny the amount of debt, either legally or equitably; and for any legal debt of which, when I can ascertain the details—which I cannot for some days—there are numerous off-sets, as transferred New Three per Cents, in the Bank of England, £1,000, then at 95½; £500 stock at par; other securities, valued each at from £300 to £400; two valuable life policies, that especially of a very old one, in the Law, for £1,000, to which several large bonuses have been added. I will only add that I will not shrink before calumny, nor shirk from paying any just claim that may be proved against me."

THE LATE MR. CHARLES ROWCROFT.

MR. CHARLES ROWCROFT, a gentleman of some literary eminence, and formerly British Consul at Cincinnati, and whose exequatur was withdrawn at the time that diplomatic relations with Mr. Crampton were broken off, has died on his voyage home. His death was so sudden, and the symptoms so strange, that some suspicions have been expressed. While at Cincinnati he was most unjustly accused (as the result of a subsequent judicial inquiry proved) of a breach of the neutrality laws of the United States, by raising and levying soldiers for her Majesty's service in the Crimea. He discovered through some of the witnesses examined on the trials, that a conspiracy existed for the invasion of Ireland by naturalised Irishmen resident in America, who were to be aided by an armed force and munitions of war from the United States. The perpetual anxieties and persecutions which Mr. Rowcroft underwent after the month of July, 1855, undermined a strong constitution. He lived in perpetual fear of his life from the threats of the lower class of the Irish emigrants who surrounded him, and who carried out their native antipathy against everything British.

He died coming home in the ship Cherubim. He was first ill on Thursday, August 21, and took some "blue mass" and opium. On Friday he looked better, but the master gave him more of the same medicine. The master writes:—"During the forenoon of Saturday he appeared very drowsy, but would occasionally start up, and at times was a little delirious. At two p.m. a very marked change took place, and the breathing became difficult till five p.m., when convulsions continued, though slightly abated, till ten p.m., when he breathed his last. During the whole illness his pulse was not above seventy, nor, upon frequent inquiries, did he express the slightest pain; twenty-four hours previous to his death the skin and eyes were extremely yellow, and a few hours before the tongue became black, and a black mucous substance issued from the mouth."

PHILARETE, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW.

WHEN the Czar and his spouse were the other day on their way to be crowned, they were met at the door of the Assumption by the Metropolitan of Moscow and Novgorod, who wore long copes of gold cloth, and on their heads, not mitres, but massive, lofty, rounded tiaras, as though they were pontiffs. In their left hands they held tall croziers. Few of the strangers who witnessed the coronation will ever forget

the striking appearance of these ecclesiastical functionaries, who filled such imposing parts in this remarkable ceremony.

It appears that since Peter the Great suppressed the title of Patriarch, the principal dignitaries of the Russo-Greek Church have been the three Metropolitans. Of these the first in rank and importance is the Metropolitan of Moscow.

This dignitary enjoys the distinction of crowning the Czar, or rather of officiating during the coronation; for the Czar places the crown on their own heads, symbolising thereby, that they owe it to no power on earth, but inherit it by "divine right."

The coronation is celebrated in the following manner:—The Metropolitan of Moscow, standing on the highest platform of the throne, places himself before the Emperor, and requires him to read in a loud voice, that he may be heard by all his faithful subjects, a profession of the orthodox faith. He presents then an open book, after which the Czar reads aloud the symbol of the faith. After which the Metropolitan says—"Gratia Spiritus Sancti sit semper tecum—Amen," and descends from the throne. After the reading of the Gospel, the Metropolitan ascends the estrade of the throne. The Emperor, after having taken from off his neck the ordinary collar of St. Andrew, and given it to an attendant, commands to be presented to him the Imperial mantle, with the collar of diamonds of the same order. The mantle is presented to the Czar upon two cushions by the Metropolitans, who assist him to robe. The Metropolitan of Moscow then says, "In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti—Amen;" and one of his Majesty's assistants fastens the mantle. When clothed in the mantle, the Czar inclines his head to the Metropolitan of Moscow, who, blessing him with the sign of the cross, lays his hands in the form of a cross upon his head, and reads the ordinary prayers according to the ritual. The prayers finished, the Emperor commands to be presented to him the Imperial crown. The functionary who has borne it in the procession, brings it on a cushion to the Metropolitan, who presents it to his Majesty. The Czar takes the crown from the cushion, and places it on his head, and the Metropolitan reads a printed discourse. The Czar then demands the sceptre and globe, which are presented with the same ceremonies. The Czar having taken the sceptre in his right hand, and the globe in his left, takes his seat upon the throne, and shortly afterwards, placing the insignia upon the cushions presented by the functionaries who had borne them, he calls to him her Majesty. The latter kneels before her august husband on a cushion of crimson velvet, galleoned with gold, and placed upon the ground. The Czar taking off his crown, touches with it that of his spouse, and replaces it upon his head.

The present Metropolitan of Moscow, who is called Philarète, without any prefix or affix to his name, is distinguished for his piety and learning. He is a thin, grisly-bearded man of about the middle

height, and now nearly sixty years of age. He bears a striking resemblance to Mr. Henry Clapp, the American lecturer and temperance apostle; but whether this be attributable to the numerous feats of total abstinence which he has had to perform, we are unable to say.

Every Sunday Philarète may be seen officiating at high mass in the Cathedral of the Assumption, where the Emperor was crowned. The principal difference between the ritual of the Russo-Greek Church

and that of the Roman Catholic, consists in a preliminary ceremony which forms the introduction to the former. The Metropolitan, attended by three of his deacons, makes his toilette in the church, and before the whole congregation. After taking off his outside garments, he washes his hands and face, and combs his hair and beard. At length he puts on his pontifical robes, and the service commences.

The Metropolitans are usually monks, and unmarried, like all the highest dignitaries of the Russian Church, who leave the cares of matrimony and the *ménage* to the lower orders of the clergy.

THE SACRED GATE AND GATE OF THE TRINITY, AT MOSCOW.

The Sacred Gate, represented by our engraving, and known to the Russians as *Spass Forala* (the Gate of the Redeemer), is by far the most important in Moscow. The origin of the epithet is now lost, but a tradition exists as to the Sacred Gate having been surmounted by a miraculous figure of our Saviour, by means of which many miracles were believed to have been wrought.

The Sacred Gate is at the present day surmounted by a picture of the Saviour under a cross, before which hangs an ill-formed lamp, in a frame of massive metal. The lamp is suspended by a heavy chain; and there is an old and very complicated machine, beside which stands a man, whose sole business is to wind it up. This picture is to the Russians an object of the utmost veneration. Indeed, the gate is altogether so sacred in their eyes, that no one—no matter what his religion—is allowed to pass through the arch without uncovering his head; and should a stranger omit to remove his hat, the sentry is not unlikely to perform that slight ceremony for him. In the eyes of strangers it has a singular effect to see carriages and four coming along at full speed, and slackening their pace as they approach this gate, while lord and groom take hat in hand and cross themselves reverently, as they pass through.

The very name of the Sacred Gate is surrounded, in the minds of Russians, with historic associations grateful to the national pride. Through it entered Ivan and his warriors, when fresh from the conquest of Kasan—and Michael and Alexis from their victories in the Ukraine. Moreover, the Tartars have often been driven back from it, miraculous clouds veiling the defenders of the Kremlin, while the Tartars were prevented finding an entrance. Even the French invasion only served to increase the renown of the Sacred Gate.

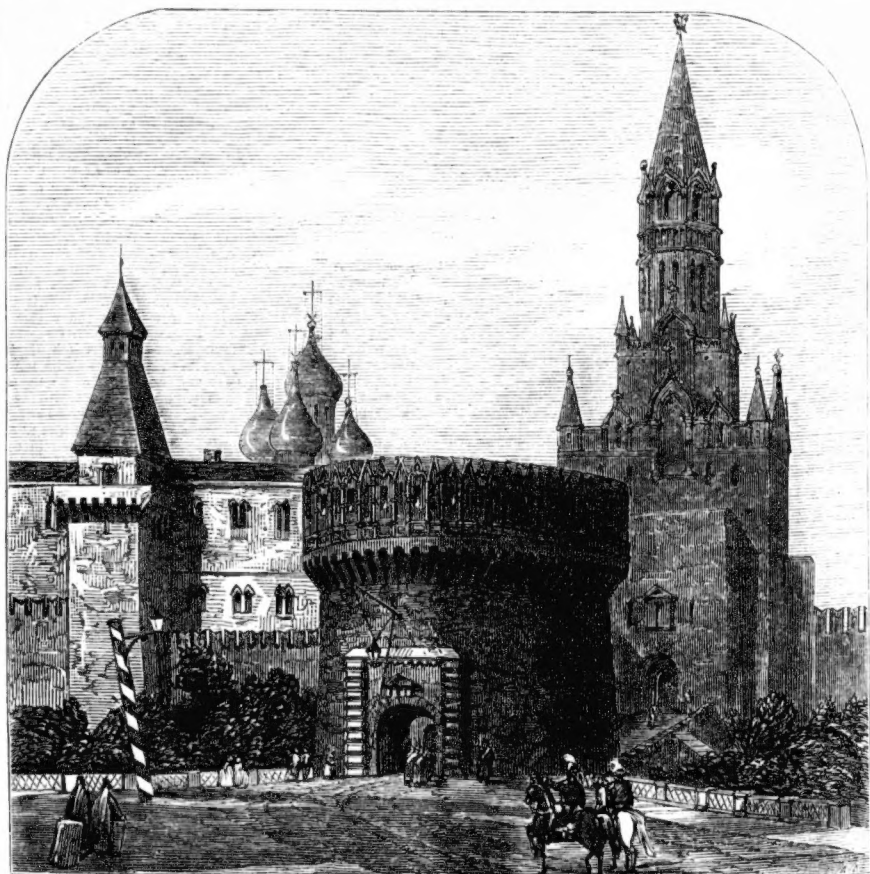
Among the objects of interest in the Kremlin, the Gate of the Trinity, which the accompanying engraving represents, though less important in the eyes of Muscovites than the Sacred Gate, is still well worthy of attention. In fact, almost every object within the ancient capital of the Czar is replete with historic associations, and suggestive of some reminiscence of the earlier days of that wide empire, whose influence has lately been found so dangerous to the peace of European society.



PHILARETE, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW.



THE SACRED GATE OF THE KREMLIN AT MOSCOW.



THE GATE OF THE TRINITY, MOSCOW.

THE NEW FREE TRADE HALL AT MANCHESTER.

OPENING OF THE BUILDING.

When the old Free Trade Hall ceased to be required for the meetings of the Anti-Corn Law League, it was occasionally used for public meetings, concerts, and balls; but the citizens of Manchester soon felt the need of a more commodious building for such purposes. The old hall was a low, dingy, unsightly structure of brick, built in utter disregard of the canons of architecture, and its only recommendations were, that it afforded the means of accommodating a very large audience, and that its acoustic properties rendered it peculiarly eligible as a place for public meetings and for musical réunions. To retain such a building as the great public hall of Manchester, would have been a scandal to the city, and a company was projected with the view of purchasing the site of the old Free Trade Hall, and replacing it by a structure which should not only afford the required accommodation, but should also be, in an architectural point of view, an ornament to the city. This project, from some cause or other, was abandoned, and the matter was then taken up by several of the most active members of the late Anti-Corn Law League, who speedily raised the sum necessary for the purchase of the ground and the erection of a suitable building, and proceeded forthwith to carry out their plan. It appears, however, that many of the contributors to the scheme were not Free-traders; and although it was determined that, as a memorial of the great struggle by which the fiscal revolution of 1846 was accomplished, the new edifice should retain the name of that which it replaced, and should still be known as the "Free Trade Hall," it was felt that any demonstration of a political character at the ceremony of inauguration, which might be distasteful and offensive to those proprietors who, though not supporters of free trade, had consented that the old title should be retained, ought to be carefully avoided. The inaugural ceremony, therefore, resolved itself into a mere formal opening of the edifice to the public. The resolutions proposed were of a strictly complimentary character, and, beyond some incidental allusions, warranted by the occasion, to the connection of the free trade movement with the erection of the hall, political topics were altogether eschewed.

When the meeting was opened on the evening of Wednesday week, there were not more than from 600 to 700 persons present, but as the time for the commencement of the ball—which seemed, especially in the estimation of the fair sex, to be by far the most interesting portion of the proceedings—approached, the arrivals increased rapidly. It was stated that upwards of 2,500 invitations were issued, and probably nearly that number of visitors was present; but, owing to the judicious arrangements of the stewards and the extent of the accommodation, ample room was maintained for the dancers, and free circulation for promenaders. Dancing commenced in the Grand Hall and in the assembly-room shortly before ten o'clock, and was kept up with unflagging spirit until the early hours of morning.

At the meeting which preceded the ball, Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P., Mr. Cheetham, M.P., Mr. W. Brown, M.P., Mr. Heywood, M.P., and other gentlemen, made speeches, which, notwithstanding the determination to put politics out of the orders of the day, were nothing if not political. Mr. Gibson observed in the course of some remarks on taxation, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had a wide field before him, and he (Mr. Gibson) for one expected great things from him. He (Mr. Gibson) believed in his conscience that, with the utmost safety, and without placing this country in what was termed a "defenceless condition," very extensive reductions might be made in our military and naval establishments; and if such reductions were made, they would be able to reduce some taxes which he believed exercised a most pernicious influence upon the interests of the community. He had a claim which he intended to urge upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the repeal of the duty on paper. He (Mr. Gibson) and those who acted with him, had endeavoured to procure for Englishmen what he believed they ought to possess—a free, cheap, and good press. With that view they endeavoured to accomplish three objects—the repeal of the advertisement duty, the abolition of the newspaper stamp, and the repeal of the duty on paper. With regard to the first two of those points they had been successful, but the repeal of the paper duty still remained to be accomplished. Now that peace was restored, and now that the "balance of power" was no longer in danger, they could turn their minds to improvements of this nature, and the industrious classes, considering the efforts they had made and the liberality with which they had contributed to the prosecution of the war, were entitled to expect considerable remissions of taxation from the Government. It appeared to him, however, that there were persons who were anxiously looking for some foreign entanglement which might enable the Ministry of the day to urge that the army should be kept up at its present strength, that it was impossible to give up any taxes, that there was danger in the distance, and that therefore all financial reforms must be delayed. He did not want on that occasion to lay down any doctrine of non-interference in foreign affairs; but he would take leave to say that he thought there was a very strong tendency on the part of the English people to interfere unnecessarily in the affairs of other countries. He (Mr. Gibson) feared it was the policy of some even at the present day, "to busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels," and by that means to furnish an excuse for maintaining the present expensive establishments, and as a consequence the high rate of taxation which was now imposed.

More interesting, however, than after-dinner speeches, will be a

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

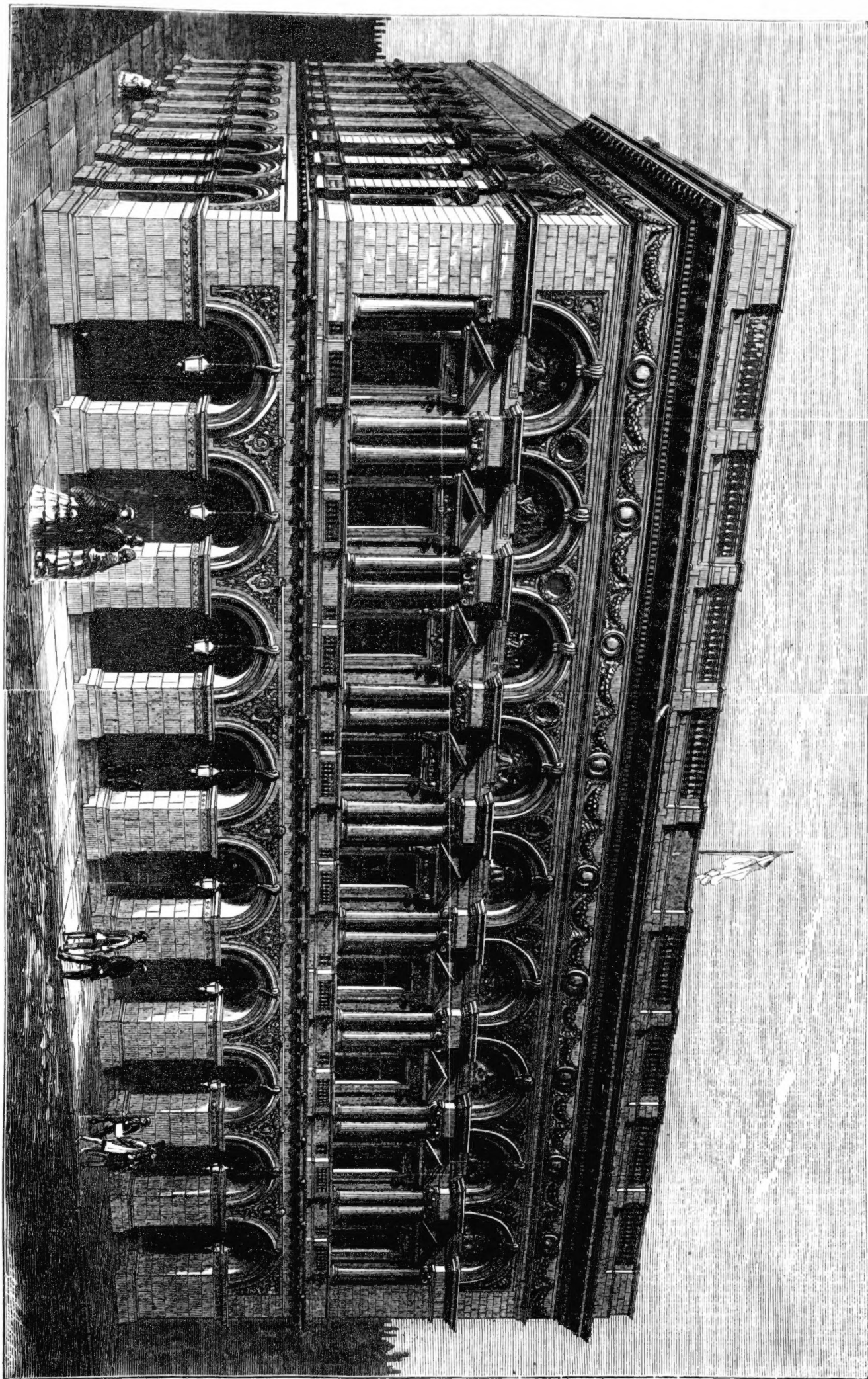
The site of the new hall is the same as that occupied by the original hall, only somewhat extended. The plot of ground which it covers is of a very irregular shape. Thus on the north (facing Peter Street), the building has a frontage of fifty-three yards; on the east (facing the Theatre Royal), fifty-two yards; on the south it extends along Windmill Street, fifty-nine yards; while on the western side the frontage narrows to thirty yards. The area altogether measures 2,300 superficial yards.

The architect has, however, disposed of the irregular site in such a manner as to secure not only a grand hall suitable for the accommodation of large audiences, but also a spacious concert or assembly room, supper-room, &c., with the necessary ante-rooms.

The length of the hall, the further end of which is rounded off into the semicircular form, is 123 feet; there is, however, in addition, a recess (receiving part of the platform) thirty-eight feet wide, and twelve feet deep; including this, the length is 135 feet. It is seventy-eight feet wide; and the height from the floor to the ceiling is fifty-two feet. Compared with

area of the hall, gives accommodation for 3,910 persons, practically 4,000; and will afford standing room for an audience of at least 6,000. The gallery rests on sixteen neat metal columns: there are no other columns in the hall, the roof being self-supporting. The gallery is kept comparatively low; so that the audience in it and the area will seem almost identical: but the walls of the edifice above the gallery are very lofty, therefore the monotony, which in large buildings of this kind is generally conspicuous, is very agreeably and effectively relieved by a variety of architectural and ornamental details. The ceiling is coved, and from the coupled columns

THE NEW FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER.—(MR. EDWARD WALTON, ARCHITECT.)



the old hall, the new hall is twenty-four feet narrower, but the same in length. The former was of course disproportionately wide. The total area is 1,078 superficial yards, estimated (in the body of the hall) to afford accommodation for 3,156 persons. This is on a calculation of one foot six inches for each person in width, and two feet six inches for knee room. There is a light sloping gallery, continued along each side, and around the semicircular end, containing four rows of seats at the side, and five in the front or semicircular end. The whole is surrounded by an ample aisle. The gallery is to seat 754 individuals. This number, with 3,156 for the

spring a series of arches, cutting into the great sweep of the cove. Directly over the columns there continue through the cove broad and floral bands, terminating with a shell. The ceiling is panelled and coffered. Along the centre there are five circular lights, each thirteen feet diameter. The frames are iron (each weighing more than half a ton), and have been especially modelled, the outlines corresponding to the front of the gallery. Light is also obtained through seventeen openings in the cove. There are also seventeen panels, having in the centre of each a large hollow pendant flower. In these flowers are placed sun-lights, comprising some

eighty burners in each. The heat from these is drawn by a flue to the centre, so as to prevent the flowers from being soiled, and the atmosphere from being vitiated. The artificial mode of lighting thus adopted is that introduced in the House of Lords, with some improvements by Mr. Bradford, a local gas engineer. Over the gallery, at the semicircular end, the wall which constitutes the front of the corridors is pierced, and from the openings project five balconies. These, while affording some accommodation in addition to that already stated, become an ornament to that part of the hall. The front of the gallery, and also the ceiling, with portions of the walls, are softly and harmoniously tinted.

The assembly or concert room occupies a position in front of the building, over a suite of ladies' waiting-rooms. In shape, it resembles the grand hall, having one end semicircular, in which there is a small gallery or orchestra, the front of which rests on two large columns reaching to the ceiling. In length it is seventy-six feet by thirty-seven feet six inches, and twenty-eight feet high, with neatly paneled ceiling. The concert-room extends about half the length of the Peter Street frontage, from which it receives light by four windows. It is calculated that this room will accommodate about six hundred persons. It has an independent staircase, through the eastern end of the arcade in Peter Street.

Upon the same level as the concert-room, occupying the lower part of the south or Peter Street frontage, is a drawing-room, forty feet six inches by twenty-four feet. In the north-west angle is a commodious card-room.

Immediately above the assembly-room, and of equal dimensions, is the supper-room, fourteen feet high, lighted from the roof. To the west of this, and over the drawing-room, are waiting and ante-rooms, and also a spacious apartment, suitable for a billiard-room.

The following is the relative height of the several storeys:—Gentlemen's waiting-rooms, 10ft. 6in.; ladies' waiting-rooms, 12ft.; assembly or concert room, &c., 28ft.; supper-room, 17ft. These, exclusive of the thickness of the floors, give a total height of 67ft. 6in. The total height of the front of the building is 75ft.

The exterior of the building it is unnecessary to describe in set terms: from a glance at our illustration a more distinct notion will be gained of the appearance of it than from a column of description.

OBITUARY.

FREYNE, LORD DE.—On the 29th ult., at 71, Connaught Terrace, Hyde Park aged 61, died the Right Hon. Arthur Freyne, first Lord de Freyne, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Roscommon. He was the eldest son of the late Arthur Freyne, Esq., of French Park, in that county, by Margaret, daughter of E. Costello, Esq., and succeeded to his father's property and the representation of his native county in 1820. For that constituency he continued to sit till December, 1832, when he withdrew from Parliamentary life, having steadily supported the Liberal party in their repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and of Catholic Disabilities, as well as in the passing of the Reform Bill. He was raised to the Peerage by Lord Melbourne in 1839, and in 1851 obtained a fresh grant of the Barony of De Freyne, with remainder to his brothers. Dying without issue, he is succeeded in the title by his next brother, the Rev. John Freyne, rector of Grange, county of Kilkenny, now second Lord de Freyne. It is well known that the peerage conferred on the late peer was offered to, and declined by, his father and grandfather, who had represented the County of Roscommon for many years in the Irish House of Commons.

HAWARDEN, LORD.—On Sunday last, at St. James's Place, Cornwallis Maude, Viscount Hawarden. He was the second son of Sir Cornwallis Maude, who was born in 1729 and elevated to the Irish peerage in 1785, as Baron Montalt (which title had before been conferred on his brother) and Viscount Hawarden. He was born in 1780, and became third Viscount Hawarden in 1807, upon the demise of his eldest brother. He is succeeded in the family honours by the Hon. Cornwallis Maude, late a captain in the 2nd Life Guards, and at present colonel of the Tipperary Militia, married to the daughter of Admiral the Hon. Charles Fleming. It is a rare circumstance that the lives of father and son cover a space of 127 years, as did those of the peer whose death we record and his father.

WOOD, MR. JOHN.—At Bath, on the 18th inst., full of years and after much suffering, Mr. John Wood, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue. Mr. Wood was elected member for Kendal in the first reformed Parliament. He soon established for himself a high character in the House of Commons amongst men of business, and was solicited by the Government to fill the important post of Chairman of the Board of Stamps and Taxes. Upon the consolidation of that board with the Commissioners of Excise, Mr. Wood was appointed chairman of the united board, which post he filled to the satisfaction of every successive Administration. The cause of education loses in Mr. Wood a firm and active supporter.

PIRATES IN THE GULF OF SIAM.—The Siamese ship Bangkok Mark, Moses, arrived from Siam at Hong Kong, reported as follows:—"On the 13th July, arrived at Siam Bay, the French fleet, under Commodore Collier, consisting of three sail, were lying there. The Gulf of Siam was infested with pirates. A fleet of twenty-four sail were seen off Cui Point; they had taken a great number of junks, bound to China. The Siamese brig-of-war Wanderer succeeded in capturing two large and heavily-armed junks. Encounters took place daily. The E. A. Souillard, Montgomery, which arrived at Callao on the 19th of August, from the Chinchas, reported that on the 16th of August the long boat, with four men, under the command of the chief officer, left the vessel for Puraia Well to procure water, and that up to the vessel leaving the island on the 24th the boat had not returned, nor had any tidings been heard of her or her crew, although every search was made there."

A BENEFACTOR OF THE WIDOW.—A very remarkable address has been presented to Mr. J. P. Grant, member of Council at Bombay, by a large body of Hindoo gentlemen. In it they thank him for his exertions in behalf of the act permitting widows to remarry, and urge him to continue his efforts for the abolition of polygamy. Petitions by the dozen reach the Legislative Council on this subject. They are all of one tenor, praying for the abolition of polygamy by penal statute. A more remarkable movement, perhaps, never occurred among an Oriental people.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—The establishment of the electric telegraph communication between Europe and America is now in fair way of being effected. Professor Morse and Mr. Field, of New York, are now in this country for furthering the necessary arrangements, and had an interview this week with Lord Clarendon on the subject. Since his arrival in Europe, Professor Morse has made some experiments on the transmission of electricity through a cable of 2,000 miles in length, and with complete success. With cable of sufficient diameter, and duly protected, there is no reason to doubt that the submarine telegraph of the same length will work well. The soundings of the Atlantic, with the view of determining the best line, are now being carried on under the direction of the American Government. A Mr. Allan of Edinburgh offers to lay down a cable of so much lighter construction than that proposed, that the whole 2,000 miles of it will be portable in a single ship, and yet of sufficient strength, for the sum of £200,000.

A LITTLE REFRESHMENT.—Mr. Ferris, in his "States and Territories of the Great West," tells an anecdote relating to a western boatman in search of excitement. Having wandered all day about Napoleon, in Western Arkansas, a town "consisting of a single grocery," he came to a place where a general fight was going on. He could not join, of course, without permission; but, touching a spectator on the shoulder, said, "Stranger, is this a free fight?" The answer was satisfactory:—"Well, it is; if you want to go in you need not stand upon ceremony." So, "going in," he lost half his hair, several of his teeth, a part of his coat, and temporarily, the use of one eye—and then sat down on a bench, saying, "It's jest the most refreshing place I've seen in many a day!"

FEATS OF MEMORY.—On the plantation of James Watson, in Mississippi (says the "New York Journal of Commerce") may be witnessed an exhibition of memory that is truly remarkable. It is the custom of Watson to give rewards for overwork, and during the cotton-picking season the amount each hand picks is weighed twice per day—noon and night. A little black girl (known as Jim Watson's Book) stands by the overseer, and listens to the number of pounds announced to each hand, and at night the result is reported with the utmost accuracy. Her correctness is repeatedly put to the test by Watson and others, who keep memoranda during the weighing, and a day or two afterwards she is catechised, and her memory found perfect. Mr. Watson works from sixty to seventy hands.

MADMOISELLE CERITO IN DANGER.—On the second night of the ballet given at Moscow—viz., "Alma" (which, however, was produced under its other title of "La fille du Feu"), an accident occurred which might have proved fatal. "Mademoiselle Cerito" (says a letter) had mounted the pedestal previous to the descent into the lower regions, when the machinery fell about her person, and inflicted several slight wounds. At the same time her dress caught fire, and but for the timely assistance of those around, she would have probably lost her life. At the moment I write she is rapidly recovering, and hopes to be able to resume her engagements in the course of a few days. The aristocracy of Moscow—and, in fact, all classes—have displayed the utmost sympathy on this unhappy occasion.

THE INSURGENTS IN CHINA seem to be getting the best of it. Since our last issue, the news from the interior has become more and more alarming to the Imperialists, whose armies are retreating before the rebels in the direction of So-chow.

THE MILITARY FRACAS AT BRIGHTON.

It was stated in our last impression that a series of "fracas," as they were mildly termed, had of late been practised by certain of the officers of the 4th or Queen's Own Regiment of Light Dragoons, now stationed at Brighton, which led to the arrest of three officers—namely, Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, Cornet Burt, and Lieutenant Winstanley. The account was in several respects imperfect, and we are now in a position to throw additional light upon the whole transaction, so far as at least regards the outrage upon Cornet Ames.

Lord Ernest Vane, one of the officers implicated in the affair, is already known to some in connection with a serious assault he committed just about a year ago upon the manager of the Windsor Theatre. Mr. Thomas Haring Ames, the cornet on whom the "frack" in question was practised, is about twenty-two years of age, and the son of a gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of the Regent's Park, London. He only joined the regiment so recently as the 13th of August last, and almost from the very day he did so, became subject to a continual series of practical jokes. These he bore good-humouredly for the most part, and to show that he was not wanting in esprit de corps it may be stated that on one or two occasions when he entered his room, and unexpectedly found some of his brother officers there, taking liberty with his property, he quietly pocketed the affront, and sat down and entertained them for the remainder of the night. It was not until an assault and great personal indignity had been played off upon him that he appealed to his commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Low, for protection. It happened in this way.

Cornet Ames is said to be a young man of a frank, pliant disposition. Though the son of a gentleman in good circumstances, he has not the means, nor, perhaps, the inclination, to launch into extravagant courses; and he therefore seems to have given umbrage to some of the younger among his brother officers, by personal habits little in accordance with their own in some respects. The regiment to which he belongs is stationed at two separate places in Brighton, one being the Preston Barracks, on the outskirts of the town, and the other the Pavilion Barracks, in its centre. The officers' mess is at the Preston Barracks. Cornet Ames, though called on to do duty daily at the Preston Barracks, and to dine at the mess there, has rooms, in which he lives and sleeps, at the Pavilion Barracks. On Sunday, the 21st of September, he dined as usual at the mess, where, he alleges, he received some insulting language from Lord Ernest Vane. On that occasion Lord Vane sat at table, with Burt on his left hand and Ames on his right, while Winstanley was seated opposite, but not immediately. During dinner, it is said, Lord Ernest Vane kept up a constant fire of taunts against Ames in an under tone, accompanied with many offensive expressions. After dinner Ames took two or three glasses of wine, and then, about half-past nine o'clock, rose to depart. He was followed, however, into the passage by Vane and Burt, both of whom seized him and dragged him into Lord Vane's room, Lieutenant Winstanley and Cornet Fyfe following. There he was forcibly held down on a sofa by Burt and Vane, while Winstanley went into Vane's bed-room and brought a pair of scissors, which he gave to Vane, and with which Vane completely denuded Ames of his whiskers on the left side of his face, Winstanley and Fyfe looking on. This escapade over, Ames was dragged along the passage to the ante-chamber adjoining the mess-room, in which coffee is served after dinner, and in this condition pushed violently in, where some of the rest of the officers were, by Burt and Vane.

Here, however, one is inclined to ask what use he made of his legs and arms while subjected to all this violence? We believe he states that he so far controlled his feelings as to forbear to strike men who were his superior officers, knowing that to do so was a high military offence under the articles of war.

Ames finally left the Preston Barracks about half-past ten o'clock, and returned to his quarters at the Pavilion. He had reached the top of the stairs leading to his apartments, when he heard voices at the foot of the stairs. Not wishing to enter the parties, knowing who they were, he retired by another way to a part of the court-yard, from which he heard them burst open his door and afterwards saw a light in the room and the shadows of people inside upon the window-blinds. On their retiring from the barracks, which they did in no long time, he proceeded to his room, where he found that the furniture had been turned topsy-turvy, his drawers pulled out of their places, and his linen thrown about the floor, two of his hats smashed, and his bed completely saturated with water. He slept on the floor of his room that night. Other damage was done, but it is unnecessary to give the details. Next morning he related the whole circumstances to the adjutant of the regiment, Lieutenant Jennings, with a request that he would report them officially to Lieutenant-Colonel Low, in command of the depot, which he did. Lieutenant-Colonel Low, in his turn, reported them to the Horse Guards, which led to the special inquiry by General Lawson, and to Lord Ernest Vane, Cornet Burt, and Lieutenant Winstanley being called on to deliver up their swords and being placed under close arrest.

The following is among Lord Ernest Vane's most recent escapades:—It seems that on Monday morning last, at half past three o'clock, the inhabitants of the Lewes Road were awoken by a loud noise and shouting. A quarrel, it seems, had taken place between Lord Ernest Vane and Cornet Burt (supposed to be under arrest), who had just driven up to the stables occupied by his Lordship, at the Race Hill Inn. His Lordship is said to have knocked Mr. Burt out of the vehicle, and to have used very bad language; afterwards a general fight took place between all parties, the grooms included. This continued for some time, until the police came up and put an end to the affair. His Lordship then drove away towards the barracks.

THE EARL OF CARDIGAN AND MR. BUCK.—Lord Cardigan has replied to the letter of Mr. Buck, of which an abstract was given in our last number. The Noble Earl says that "Mr. Buck's letter appears to me to be a tissue of ignorance, presumption, and slander. I consider that Mr. Buck's conduct in this matter has been disgraceful, and unworthy of his position as a gentleman and a member of Parliament. I consider also that he has offered a gross insult to me without the slightest provocation. It is, therefore, my intention to hold no further communication with him. This individual has now identified himself with a low slanderer, (Mr. Ryan, we presume, is here hinted at), whose statements—dictated no doubt by some person much above his own position in society—were the origin of all those falsehoods which have been launched at me, for it is well known that not one word was ever said on the subject in the Crimea for many months after the battle of Balaklava, or until those calumnies were invented in England and sent out to the East." The Noble Lord then goes again into his defence, of which our readers have probably had enough. The spirit with which the correspondence is carried on is interesting, however, and not a little illustrative of the Crimean squabbles.

AN OFFICER IN DISGUISE.—A few days ago, at Chatham Barracks, as Colour-Sergeant Dogherty, of the 46th regiment, was passing through the quarters of the privates, he recognised a young soldier in the uniform of the 8th Foot, whom he knew to be ensign George P. Cobbe, Esq., son of Major-General Cobbe, of the Royal Horse Artillery. The sergeant made the circumstance known to the officer commanding the provisional battalion, who caused the young man to appear in the office to give an account of himself. It appears that he was in the Crimea with his regiment, and he, with some other young officers, proceeded over the boundary line to take a survey of the country. On his return, after two days' absence, he found to his surprise that the 46th had embarked at Balaklava, and sailed for England. He procured a free passage in a Russian prize ship, and landed at Cardiff, but having no friends in that part of the country, and supposing that his name had been erased from the list of officers, in consequence of his absence, he enlisted in the 8th Foot, and came from Cardiff to Chatham as a recruit. He is only nineteen years of age, and had been in the service about twelve months. There can be no doubt that the authorities at the Horse Guards will restore him to his rank, considering his youth and inexperience of military life.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—On Monday the Venerable W. Hale Hale, Archdeacon of London and Canon of St. Paul's, took the customary oaths, and was admitted before the Vicar-General, Dr. Twiss, to the office of Official with the city and diocese of London, during the vacancy of the see of London. This appointment is made under an ancient composition between Archbishop Boniface, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, under which the latter body have the privilege of nominating three of the canons of their cathedral church, from whom the Archbishop of Canterbury selects an Official, who is empowered to discharge the functions usually performed by the Vicar-General of the Archbishop during the vacancy of a diocesan see.

ARCHDEACON DENISON'S CASE.—The Archbishop of Canterbury will on Tuesday next proceed to Bath for the purpose of passing sentence on Archdeacon Denison, who has declined to retract his alleged errors of doctrine. There will be the power of appeal to the Judicial Committee of Privy Council in this case; but by the 16th clause of the Church Discipline Act the Archbishop of Canterbury will not be permitted to sit on that occasion.

ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.—The eclipse of the moon which took place on Monday night was visible throughout the whole time of its obscuration. The clearness of the atmosphere was obstructed but slightly by clouds during the evening.

SUICIDE MANIA.—The number of suicides by drowning and other causes, reported to the chief police office, Great Scotland Yard, within the last week, is twenty-one, and the attempted suicides that have been taken cognisance of by being brought before a magistrate number upwards of fifteen; and notwithstanding that the magistrates are very severe with persons charged with the offence, the crime is greatly on the increase.

A NEW USE FOR HOLFORD HOUSE, REGENT'S PARK.—Holford House, the appropriation of which has frequently been a matter of speculation, and which was only recently in view for the residence of the ex-Queen of Oude, is to become a Baptist college; that is, Stepping College is to be removed to this new and advantageous site. To complete the purchase, the sum of £8,000 is required, towards which, however, £5,000 has been already raised. Sir Morton Peto heads the list with the donation of £1,000. The committee are to take immediate possession. In addition to the work of training students for the ministry, provision is to be made for receiving a limited number of lay-students.

Literature.

Beaumarchais and his Times. *Sketches of French Society in the 18th Century; from unpublished documents.* By LOUIS DE LOMENIE. In Four Volumes. Vols. III. and IV. London: Addey and Co.

ABOUT the beginning of the last decade of the eighteenth century, while France was on the eve of its great revolution, the curiosity of visitors to Paris was excited by a superb residence in front of, and near to, the Bastille. In coming by the Boulevard, you saw on the left a wall surmounted by a terrace planted with trees, in the style of the terrace by the side of the water in the garden of the Tuileries. At the extremity of this terrace appeared in the middle of the trees, a temple of a round form, surmounted with a dome. Proceeding along the terrace, you reached the entrance, which opened into an immense spherical court. On one side of this court was a house, presenting a semi-circular facade with arcades and columns, and arranged inside in an original and sumptuous style. This place was the residence of Beaumarchais; since celebrated throughout the wide world as the author of "The Marriage of Figaro," which exercised so much influence in destroying, for good or for evil, the ancient social hierarchy of France.

It is well nigh two months since we had the pleasure of presenting, from the pages of M. de Lomenie, a sketch of the earlier half of the career of Beaumarchais. We then showed how he, the son of a watchmaker, was born in Paris in 1732; how his skill as a watchmaker introduced him to Versailles; how his talent as a musician retained him there, in the capacity of music-master to the Princesses and director of their weekly concerts; how a lady, who had thought twice of the young watchmaker, called at his shop under the pretext of having a watch to repair, and made him the husband of a woman worth having; and how he borrowed from this fair dame that name which, in 1775, became known to fame in connection with the "Barber of Seville." We gladly avail ourselves of the appearance of M. de Lomenie's remaining volumes, as translated with great ability by Mr. Edwards, to conclude our sketch of a career so interesting and instructive.

The second volume opens with some particulars of a conspiracy entered into by the actors of the Comédie Française to cheat Beaumarchais out of the interest which he was fairly entitled to in his comedy of the "Barber of Seville," the success of which was best indicated by its having already run some thirty nights. At this period the relations between dramatic authors and the Comédie Française, so far as the division of the proceeds arising from the performances was concerned, were regulated by rather a singular code. The author of a piece in five acts was entitled, it seems, to one-ninth share of each night's receipts after a sum varying from 3000l. to 5000l. had been deducted for the ordinary expenses of the theatre; but in the event of the receipts for a single night ever being below 1,2000l. during the winter or 8000l. during the summer months, the piece was then brought, as it was called, "within the rules," or, in other words, became the exclusive property of the actors. It was not exactly to combat this unjust regulation, but rather the scandalous abuses to which it gave rise, that Beaumarchais formed a league with his brother dramatists for the protection of their common literary rights; and after a hard struggle with the theatrical kings and queens, who were bitterly enraged at this attempt to interfere with their royal privileges, he was fortunate enough to succeed in procuring some important modifications of this singularly unjust code.

At the period when the dispute which had arisen between the American colonists and Great Britain with reference to the stamp duties was on the eve of being settled by an appeal to arms, France watched with anxiety the course which events were taking. Restrained by actual fear of her old rival from openly siding with the disaffected colonists, the Government was all the more anxious to render them all the secret assistance it could. In 1775, Beaumarchais was sent to England ostensibly with reference to certain papers belonging to the notorious Chevalier D'Eon, but in reality on a mission of observation as to the state of public opinion in this country on the American difficulty. After a few months' absence he returned to Paris, when he communicated the result of his inquiries in the form of a memorial to the king. This he shortly afterwards followed up by an admirably-written state paper, wherein he discussed the various chances of the struggle which had then just commenced, and concluded by urging the French monarch to aid the Americans with efficient secret assistance, if he dared not openly break with his powerful neighbour, Great Britain.

The French Ministry eventually determined to follow Beaumarchais' advice, but great anxiety was evinced to prevent the possibility of the nature of the assistance which it might render from coming to the knowledge of the English Government. It was therefore prudently resolved that this assistance should partake of the character of a private speculation, the conduct of which was to be entrusted to Beaumarchais, and two millions of francs were advanced to him to enable him to establish a mercantile house, which might supply the Americans, at its own risk, with arms, ammunition, equipments, and other articles necessary for keeping up the war, receiving from the colonists in return, by way of payment, tobacco, cotton, and other products of the soil. The French Government engaged to render all the assistance it could by permitting, for instance, the said mercantile firm to purchase arms and ammunition from the public arsenals, and by aiding it to dispose of the tobacco, cotton, &c., which might be received from the American colonists.

In due course, the firm of Rodrigue Horlaez, and Company, was established. An immense building, called the Hôtel de Hollande, in the Faubourg du Peuple, was its head-quarters, and early in the year 1777, in spite of various delays, caused by sundry protests on the part of the English Ambassador, who seemed early to have got wind of Beaumarchais' proceedings, three vessels, laden with 200 cannons, mortars, shells, cannonballs, 25,000 guns, and 200,000lbs. of powder, with clothing and ten for 25,000 men, set sail from Havre and Nantes. They were lucky enough to escape the English cruisers, and in due time arrived at their port of destination.

We have not leisure to follow Beaumarchais through all the ups and downs of that career in which we find him to be now fairly embarked. In June, 1778, war was formally declared between France and England, and in about a year afterwards, one of Beaumarchais' ships, the *Fier Rodrigue*, which carried sixty guns, was honoured by being called upon to take part in a general action. It seems that the ship in question was conveying a small fleet of merchantmen, and when off the Island of Granada, was discovered by the French Admiral D'Estaing strutting proudly before the wind, and signalled to heave-to. Very soon afterwards it was ordered to prepare for action, and its post in the coming struggle was assigned to it. An engagement took place with the English fleet under Admiral Byron, in which, according to Beaumarchais' biographer, British tars were not as usual victorious. D'Estaing wrote to Beaumarchais after the close of the engagement assuring him that the *Fier Rodrigue* had acted well in line, and had contributed to the success of the King's arms. This was certainly very gratifying intelligence, although it was accompanied by the information that the captain of his ship was killed, and thirty-five of the crew killed and wounded. The ship itself had three shots in the side, four in the water-line, two of which went completely through, five in the masts, forty in the sails, and the large pump it seems was split all to pieces. The merchant ships were dispersed, and most of them were captured by the English. The French Government granted Beaumarchais an indemnity for his losses, and, undeterred by the foregoing mishaps, he at once prepared to renew his dangerous colonial trade.

Like a prudent man of business, however, he became anxious for heavy consignments of cotton and tobacco in return for his muskets and cannonballs, but the colonists were very dilatory sort of people to deal with. It is true they had plenty to do just then in contending against the large forces which the mother country were pouring in upon them. In two years Beaumarchais only received cargoes of the value of 300,000 francs against consignments valued at 5,000,000 francs. This was a poor result; still he was not daunted, and the Yankees kept his spirits up with promises from time to time. At length, in October, 1779, when he was expecting to receive an instalment in kind—whether cotton or tobacco was of no particular moment to him—he was rather

disappointed to receive a bundle of bills, at three years' date, for the amount of 2,444,000 francs, which bills Congress sent on the pretext that the dangers of navigation were too imminent to admit of their risking such valuable commodities as cotton and tobacco.

Two years afterwards, when Silas Deane, the agent of the General Congress, returned to France to examine various unsettled accounts, he fixed the amount due to Beaumarchais, after deducting all payments on account, at the sum of 3,600,000 francs; the reader, however, will not be surprised to learn that the Yankees repudiated the act of their own agent, and, after a repetition of the most shuffling conduct that ever disgraced a nation—after evading the matter in every possible shape and way—and delaying a settlement for the long period of fifty-four years, the Government of the United States of America made the contemptible offer of 500,000 francs as a settlement in full of Beaumarchais' claim. This unfair settlement his heirs, worn out with hopes deferred that made their hearts sick, had no alternative but to accept.

We will pass over the next speculation in which we find Beaumarchais to have been engaged, namely, the preparation of a complete edition of the works of Voltaire, in seventy volumes octavo, and ninety-two volumes duodecimo—that this was attended with lamentable results may be judged by the fact, that he printed 15,000 copies and only procured 2,000 subscribers—and will hasten onwards to that period when he produced the "Marriage of Figaro," his greatest work. The probability of getting such a piece performed was somewhat slender, and Beaumarchais encountered one of those obstacles, which, in the case of any ordinary man, would beyond all doubt have proved insurmountable. At the beginning of 1782, one authority, M. de Lomenie tells us, decided that the "Marriage of Figaro" should never be acted; and that authority was no other than Louis XVI.

Madame Campan has preserved to us, in her Memoirs, the picture of this scene, in which Louis XVI., alone with Marie Antoinette, has "The Marriage of Figaro" read to him. After the famous monologue in the fifth act, the King exclaimed, "It is detestable; it will never be played. It would be necessary to destroy the Bastille, to prevent the representation of this piece being a dangerous anomaly. This man laughs at everything which ought to be respected in a government." "It will not be played then?" said the Queen, whose tone seemed to indicate a certain inclination for the piece. "No, certainly," said the King; "you may be sure of it."

The ill-fated Louis was wiser in his generation than men much more gifted by nature. Beaumarchais and those people who composed the society he was attacking, were alike and altogether unconscious of the danger of his assaults, or the effects they would produce. The dramatist, from the commencement, had warm partisans at court; and among those who pretended to represent the ancient nobility, it very soon became a question who should obtain the favour—the privilege—of hearing Beaumarchais, whether at his own house or in the most brilliant saloons, give those readings of his piece which he executed with, we can well believe, remarkable talent. "Every day," writes Madame Campan, "persons were heard to say, 'I was present, or I shall be present, at the reading of Beaumarchais' piece.'" Well, as a natural consequence, this sort of thing became the fashion; and when Beaumarchais had thoroughly aroused public curiosity, he made the most of the interest he had excited.

"He replaced his manuscript in the drawer, declaring that it should not be taken out again; fearing, as he said, to offend the King, by making more extensively known a piece which his Majesty disapproved. It was necessary to entreat him—to supplicate him; it was also necessary that the rank of the persons who so besought him should be such as to protect him from all dissatisfaction in high quarters; whence it followed that even the most distinguished personages obtained this favour only on condition of asking it at least twice." The Princess de Lamballe, for example, the friend of the Queen, experienced a violent desire to have "The Marriage of Figaro" read at her house. She despatched an ambassador to Beaumarchais. He was one of the greatest nobles of the Court—the eldest son of Marshal de Richelieu, the Duke de Fronsac; one of those degenerate scions of the French aristocracy who have especially contributed to render Beaumarchais' comedy so redoubtable—for to an insolent fatuity, and to all the vices of a debauchee by profession, the Duke de Fronsac united a great poverty of wit and extreme ignorance. It was especially upon him that fell with singular force and appropriateness the famous phrase, "You have taken the trouble to be born," for he had certainly never cared to take any trouble in addition thereto. But, as Beaumarchais has said in his piece, "It is only small men who are afraid of small writings," the Duke was particularly anxious not to pass for a small man, and he patronised "The Marriage of Figaro" to his utmost."

As time passed on, in June, 1783, Beaumarchais' star appeared to be in the ascendant. His friends thought him on the point of achieving a victory over the King, and what was rare, of seeing his piece performed at the theatre of the Court itself. The actors suddenly received notice to learn the play "for the service of Versailles;" and this having gone by, it was subsequently decided that "Figaro" should be acted in the capital of France, in the theatre of the Hotel de Menus Plaisirs.

"Tickets were distributed to all the Court; the carriages already thronged about the entrance of the theatre; when, at the very moment that the performance was about to commence, an express order arrived from the King, forbidding the performance of the piece, in any theatre or in any place whatsoever." "This prohibition by the King," says Madame Campan, "seemed an attack upon the public liberty. So many disappointed hopes excited dissatisfaction to such a point, that the words OFFESSION and TYRANNY were never pronounced with more passion and vehemence than then, in the days which preceded the downfall of the throne." Madame Campan here attributes to Beaumarchais an insolent speech, often repeated since then, and which appears to me to be a fabrication. According to this lady, Beaumarchais said aloud in the very theatre of the Menus-Plaisirs: "Very well, Gentlemen! I will not allow it to be represented here, and I hope, for my part, that it will be played, perhaps in the very choir of Notre Dame."

At length, after much trouble, the permission of the King, poor Louis the Sixteenth, was obtained, to a single performance taking place at Genevilliers; and Beaumarchais, who happened at the time to be in England, immediately returned home.

"Some days afterwards the entire Court had the pleasure of attending the performance of a piece which the King had declared to be detestable and unlawful. It is even said that the Queen would have appeared at Genevilliers had she not been prevented by an indisposition. It is very probable, as Madame Campan relates, that the ladies complained of the heat, and that Beaumarchais broke the panes of glass with his cane, and that this gave rise to the neat not, 'on'll avoir doublement cassé les vitres'; but, when Madame Lebrun describes him, as intoxicated with joy, rushing about on all sides like a man out of his senses, she looks at him through the prism of the time that has gone by and of her own imagination."

The audience was enchanted (as people could not help being) with the performance; yet the King, who ought to have made up his mind by this time, still scrupled and hesitated. But Louis the Sixteenth could not resist the influence brought to bear on him; and in March, 1784, Beaumarchais having obtained the Royal permission, or something like it, the first performance was announced:—

"The description of the first performance of 'The Marriage of Figaro,' is in every history of the period. It is one of the best known souvenirs of the eighteenth century. All Paris rushed, even in the morning, to the doors of the Théâtre-Français; ladies of the highest rank dined in the actresses' rooms in order to be sure of places; 'cordons bleus,' said Beaumarchais, 'mixed up in the crowd, and elbowing with Savoyards; the guard dispersed, the doors knocked in, the iron gates broken by the efforts of the assailants.' 'Three persons suffocated,' says La Harpe; 'one more,' he adds maliciously, 'than for Scudéry.' On the stage, after the curtain was raised, was seen, perhaps, the most splendid assemblage of talent which was ever contained within the walls of the Théâtre-Français, all employed in promoting the success of a comedy which sparkled with wit, and carried the audience along by its dramatic movement and audacity, which, if it shocked or startled some of the private boxes, enchanted, excited, and inflamed an electrified pit."

"Such is the picture which is to be found everywhere, and which, therefore, it is not necessary for us to dwell upon. We will only add one thing more, which will, perhaps, complete it—namely, that Beaumarchais was in all this tumult, in a large gréce, between two abbés, with whom he had been having a jovial dinner, and whose presence had seemed indispensable to him, in order that they might administer to him, he said, 'des secours très-spirituels,' in case of death."

Here is a passage which gives us an idea of the subsequent success:— "The Marriage of Figaro" had been represented sixty-eight times successively, with unparalleled success. The first time it was played the receipts amounted to 6,511 livres; the sixty-eighth time they were 5,483 livres. In eight months from April 27, 1784, to January, 10, 1785, the piece had brought the Comédie-Française (without counting the benefit representation, which was, at Beaumarchais' suggestion, given for the benefit of the poor), the gross sum of 346,197 livres was left for the actors, minus Beaumarchais' share as author, which was valued at 41,499 livres. We see from this, that if 'The Marriage of

Figaro' was open to criticism as a work of art, it was of undeniable value as a means of obtaining money."

The triumph was no slight affair. Beaumarchais has by "Figaro" connected his theatrical name with one of the most important crises in human history. The memory of "Figaro" is intimately associated with that of the French revolution, and, of course, nothing more was necessary than being author of it to make a name immortal.

We cannot go more profoundly into this book. Unfortunately, our limits will not permit us to relate how Beaumarchais suffered from that revolution to which he had in a great measure contributed; how he endured exile, and returned at length to France; and how, on the 18th of May, 1799, he was found dead in his bed. M. de Lomenie, we are glad to find, vindicates his hero from the reproach of having poisoned himself with opium.

We have read through this biography of Beaumarchais—the biography of a great man—with real interest, and feel bound to express our conviction that M. de Lomenie is deserving of unqualified praise for the manner in which he has performed his task. All who read the volumes in their English form, will give proper credit to Mr. Edwards for having executed his translation with that elegant taste and literary talent which are rarely found united in the expert translators of the present day.

Our Miscellany. By E. H. YATES and R. B. BROUGH. London: Routledge and Co.

THERE is at present a want of comic literature. The "Punch" writers, who seem to have settled down into solid well-to-do citizens, content themselves with the working of their respective joke manufactories or mills, through which the same joke is again and again passed, and duly comes out in its allotted column with a certain typographical aspect of wit and humour, but lacking the somewhat necessary property of exciting mirth. The "Facetiae" in the "Family Herald" and the "London Journal" are jokes only to those who never heard them before, and therefore raise but limited hilarity. The middle pages of the "Press" (as exhibited every Saturday in the windows of the publishing office) certainly contain true comic power, but the best article is generally made artfully to run over into an unexposed page, and as the paper is not ordinarily bought, much of the fun is lost to its regular readers. When, therefore, a shilling book appears, having, like the present, fun and good-humoured satire for its principal element, it lays claim to that double chance of success which is likely to arise from its own merit and the absence of rivalry.

"Our Miscellany" is a collection of burlesque imitations of our popular writers. There are two methods of parodying an author—one by seizing upon his style, and the other by burlesquing his incidents. Messrs. Yates and Brough have adopted these two plans indiscriminately. Thus, while the "Ascent of the Mont de Piété" is a squib upon the well-known Ascent of Mont Blanc, the style in which the story is told is certainly not that of Albert Smith. On the other hand, the ballad of "Johnson," though told in the metre of the "Lays of Ancient Rome" (and excellently told, by the way) has no affinity whatever with them in its story. Some of the papers follow their types with extraordinary closeness; others have merits of their own, which, without the imitation implied by the employment of a special kind of versification, would be ample recommendation. Of this kind are the "Ballad of Perea Nena," and "Down East." An excellent parallel (we can scarcely call it a burlesque or parody) to the dimly vulgar song of the "Ratcatcher's Daughter," is given us in a ballad, entitled the "Costermonger's Fancy," in which the events (like those detailed in its precursor) are of a tragic, not to say horrible, character. We fear, however, that the satire of Mr. Brough will be here too delicate for its object, and that the "Costermonger's Fancy" will be sung as a comic song by those who could tolerate the "Ratcatcher's Daughter." The intentional and utter absence of all effort at wit or humour—a result which the author has evidently strained to accomplish, will weigh but little with the comic vocalists of Lambeth or their audiences.

Everyday Cookery for Every Family. London: Ward and Lock.

THOSE who prefer genuine English dishes to what are derogatively styled "French kickshaws," will find this little book to be one of the best manuals on the subject of Family Cookery which they could possibly provide themselves with. It is not to be expected that we should criticise its contents, for to attempt this would be to realise the situation of the hungry boy outside the pastrycook's shop, with delicacies innumerable spread out before him, and tempting his longing gaze. We will content ourselves by saying that the directions given are invariably clear; that in addition to actual recipes, the volume contains hints of every possible kind respecting the kitchen and its appointments, the science of laying out a dining-table, articles of food in season, carving, the duties (if we may so style them) pertaining to cooks, and the best method of preparing food for the sick chamber and for young children. Not the least interesting portion of the volume is the multiplicity of neatly-executed little woodcuts that are inserted in the text to render the directions given all the more clear.

EDUCATIONAL BOOKS.

The Illustrated Webster Reader (Ward and Lock) seems to have been carefully got up, and is composed of the usual contents of publications of its class, with perhaps a larger sprinkling of short stories adapted to the comprehension of children than are ordinarily to be met with in spelling books and readers. Of course, the pictures are a prominent feature; and of course, among these, subjects of natural history are the most numerous.

Bithell's Course of Reading Lessons in English History (Groombridge) has the merit of bringing down its narrative of events to so late a period as the recent celebration in honour of the peace. It has the greater merit of giving a truer colouring to past occurrences in English history than Ince has done in his extremely over-rated little book of "Outlines," which foolishly follows Goldsmith and Hume in their senseless admiration of the Stuarts, and equally senseless condemnation of all the proceedings of the Commonwealth.

La Bagatelle (Simkin and Co.) is the title of a neat-looking little manual, the purport of which is to introduce young children to something like an acquaintance with the French language. Judging from a cursory examination, we should say that it will be found to answer its intended purpose in every respect; and the volume can certainly claim the merit of being produced with more than an average amount of care, so far as its typographical getting up is concerned.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—LAST DISPLAY OF THE GREAT FOUNTAINS.—The directors of the Crystal Palace, anxious to compensate themselves for the loss, and the public for the disappointment, occasioned by the unfavourable state of the weather on the last day the great fountains played, named Saturday for a second "last day." They were doomed to be again disappointed. The clouds refused to "move on," the wind was capricious, a heavy mist lay thickly on the landscape and invaded the grounds themselves, and, last but not least, the fountains were sulky. They were not to be coaxed or forced into enthusiasm. They played lazily, the centre jets in many cases scarcely reaching even to the height of those by which they were surrounded. It was the first time that they ever failed in reaching the accustomed height. There was, however, but little disappointment visible in the faces of the visitors, who seemed tacitly to acknowledge that, after all, the Crystal Palace affords more resources on a rainy day than any other place. There was but little rushing to the train when the fountains had finished playing, and the company promenade up and down as in summer. There were two processions going on in the Palace during the greater part of the day, which drew the attention of the visitors away from the ordinary sources of attraction, and created considerable excitement. These processions were headed severally by Mirza Secunder Hushmet Bahadur, brother to the King of Oude, and Mirza Wullee Hyder Bahadur, son of the King and heir apparent. A long suite of officials and attendants followed in the rear of these personages, who seemed divided between a desire to display their dignity and to appear affable. As the Oude party was about to enter the Temple of Justice in the Court of the Alhambra, their attention was called to the circumstance of the word "God" being written on the tasseled floor, and they refused to tread upon it, as that would have involved an act of gross desecration, according to their religion.

HER MAJESTY, on learning the straitened circumstances of the two unmarried daughters of the late Mr. Sole, formerly her Majesty's music-master, has granted them a pension of fifty pounds a year out of her privy purse.

THE STORY OF A BISHOPRIC.

WHEN the see of Gloucester and Bristol became vacant, it was announced that the Reverend Chenevix Trench had been nominated, and that selection was all but universally received as creditable to the Government. But it was almost immediately announced that the report of Mr. Trench's nomination was "premature." Again, within the last few days, Mr. Trench was announced as appointed to the deanery of Westminster, in succession to the late Dr. Buckland; and in noticing this report, the "Globe" remarked that it was "somewhat premature, but not so much so as on the former occasion," for that in a few days the Queen's approval would be asked for Mr. Trench's nomination. Now with regard to the bishopric, the fact seems to be that Mr. Trench had an interview with Lord Palmerston, and was supposed to be himself the author of the "premature" rumour that he had been selected for the vacant bishopric. Mr. Trench, indeed, was really intended by the Prime Minister to be the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol; but, according to the current story, by some "understanding" or other the see had been promised to Lord Ashburton; who was to be, as it were, the patron holding the nomination of the candidate for that living. That such things have been is notorious, though we do not know by what title any nobleman, more especially a nobleman out of office, can be considered to have any share in instituting a clerk to a bishopric.

To continue the current story. As soon as it was known that Mr. Chenevix Trench had been selected for Gloucester and Bristol, a nobleman busied himself to interpose a bar to the appointment. The nobleman mentioned was Lord Shaftesbury, and it is said the person to whom he applied was the wife of the Premier. It is said that he objected to Mr. Trench on the ground that he is a "Puseyite." If this is correct, it is indeed an extraordinary innovation upon the constitutional treatment of the Church. What is a "Puseyite?" where is any section of the Church recognised by that title? How is a Minister of State, holding Church patronage in his hand, to distinguish between a Puseyite and the reverse of a Puseyite? Is there any complaint against the orthodoxy of Mr. Trench? Has he laid himself open to the enforcement of the law of Church discipline? He is remarkable for the power and grace of his published works; and if he is classed among Puseyites, it has been probably from the high artistic and moral tone of his productions; for indeed there is so little distinctness in the designation of "Puseyite," that in the present case it was applied without reason or justice. Mr. Trench is not a "Puseyite." There would have been more force in the objection, that there was an understanding to give the see to somebody else—to allow Lord Ashburton the next appointment; and if Lord Ashburton was the patron of that living, it is of course no surprise for the public that a clergyman of the Baring family should be inducted.—*Spectator*.

RETURN OF THE FRENCH COURT TO PARIS.

THE return of the Emperor of the French to his capital, after some months' rural leisure, has excited a degree of interest unusual in such cases, but not unnatural under the circumstances. Men have been expressing more than ordinary discontent at the state of affairs; and among those who now murmur and complain are not only the men of order, irrespectively of party, but even some very sincere friends of the Imperial Government. They say, that if the "acts of omission" of the last few months be frequently repeated, the Government, however strong and popular, would cease to inspire confidence. To such a feeling as this may, perhaps, be traced the rumours which have so generally prevailed, respecting the Emperor's health. Those who, for the last month or two, were in the habit of seeing him enjoy exercise in the open air, on foot or on horseback, over hill and dale, rock and glen, affirmed that he never looked in better health than during the period of his supposed malady. But people are so fond of cherishing delusions on such a point, that perhaps nothing but his appearance among them could have persuaded the Parisians, that the Chief of the state was equal to his work. All these things considered, it is not surprising that the friends of Napoleon III. should have hailed his return to Paris with something like enthusiasm.

When, on the evening of the 3rd inst., the arrival of the Imperial family from Biarritz, was expected, a crowd, composed of persons of various classes of society, had stationed themselves along the quays leading to the Orleans Railway station. Few, however, were admitted into the interior, the Emperor having requested that his reception should be without show.

Notwithstanding his wish in this respect, the occasion was not allowed to pass without considerable display and ceremony. The reception hall was richly decorated, hung with velvet, and brilliantly lighted by a lustre and girandoles. Busts of the Imperial pair were placed on an elegantly arranged console. The directors of the Orleans Railway formed a group, which was soon joined by Marshal Magnan, M. Fould, Billault, and Vaillant, the Prefects of the Seine and of the Police, and several other persons of distinction. A little before eight o'clock, the whistle of an engine announced the approach of the train, and the assembled company hastened to meet the carriages and salute the Imperial party with a hearty cheer. The moment the carriages stopped, the Emperor, who was standing on the platform which in the Imperial train separates the saloon from the refreshment-room, graciously waved his hand to the persons present.

A carpet having been laid along the landing-place, the Emperor stepped out first, and then the Empress, followed by the Countess de Labédoyère and the Countess de Lourmel, ladies of the Palace. Next came the Prince Imperial, borne in the arms of Madame de Brancion, followed by a healthy-looking nurse in a provincial costume. The appearance of the Emperor was a sufficient answer to the mysterious rumours so recently circulated. His Majesty never looked better than at this moment; he crossed the waiting-room with a firm step; his face had, as was remarked by everybody, an air of gaiety and vivacity; and the folds of his travelling coat appeared to indicate that he was the stouter for his stay in the south of France. The Empress wore an appearance of brilliant health, and people who formed an idea on the subject, judged from the *lourneur* of her simple *toilette de voyage*, that the Imperial nursery will not be long before it is augmented by a fresh shoot. As for the Imperial Prince, those present were much struck with the strength and health imprinted on his young features. The child has the look of a marvellously healthy boy of at least a twelvemonth old. He has a broad forehead and chubby cheeks, forming what is commonly called in France *une pleine lune*. He was thoroughly awake, and looked to the right and left on the bustle going forward around him. His face recalls the well known engraving of "the ill-fated King of Rome," and he is really what we should call in England "a prize baby."

The Emperor and Empress appeared in no degree fatigued by their twelve hours' journey, which was accomplished with no other halts than were necessary for the service of the locomotive. The Emperor cordially shook hands with his Ministers and the officers of his household, and warmly and kindly thanked the directors for their attention during the journey. No address was made, and it seemed as if no words could have adequately expressed the satisfaction felt by all the persons present on again beholding all the Imperial family after an absence of such duration. The Empress received with her accustomed grace the words of welcome addressed to her by some of those who had the honour of being known to her, and in a few moments their Majesties got into their carriage amid repeated cries of "Vive l'Empereur! Vive l'Impératrice! Vive le Prince Imperial!" A battalion of infantry was drawn up in the court of the station, but the Imperial carriages moved off to St. Cloud with no other escort than a picket of cavalry.

We observe that the Emperor and Empress have since been on a shooting excursion in the Park of St. Cloud, when her Majesty wore an elegant costume of green cloth, composed of a skirt and jacket, ornamented with gold buttons, and a round hat with a plume of feathers. The sub-officers of the Chasseurs of the Guard attended on the Empress to carry her fowling-pieces; and she killed nine pheasants out of fifty-three shot during the excursion. There are to be hunting and shooting matches alternately every five days at Compiègne until November.

The Emperor received in private audience, on Sunday, at St. Cloud, General Kheredine, charged by the Bey of Tunis to present a cradle to the Imperial Prince.



THE RETURN OF THE FRENCH COURT TO PARIS.—NAPOLEON III., EUGENIE, AND THE INFANT PRINCE.

THE TOWER OF
IVAN VELIKI,
ILLUMINATED.

FOR no portion of the coronation ceremonial were more elaborate preparations made than for the general illumination, on the night of that eventful day on which the Czar had proclaimed himself, in the face of his assembled people, as the anointed of the Lord. An illumination is a description of festive demonstration for which Moscow has peculiar advantages, from its undulating site, and the quaint grotesque forms of many of its public buildings. Artists had been obtained from Paris and Berlin; and for months before the day of the coronation every spire, steeple, and "coign of vantage," had been covered with men, whose business it was to encrust each with a wooden framework, which, while carefully following all its caprices of form, should at the same time accommodate the myriads of lamps with which it was ultimately to be furnished. When all was completed, and Moscow was lighted up with such dazzling brilliancy and the favourable weather rendered the illuminations particularly successful, nowhere was the display more remarkable, and to no quarter did people throng with greater eagerness, than that mass of buildings composing the Kremlin.

The entire turreted wall of the Kremlin, several miles in extent, was literally festooned throughout its whole length with little lamps filled with tallow, and having a very thick wick stuck in the middle of each. Every tree in the beautiful garden was covered with coloured lamps, and even the fountains had their framework of light, through which the water foamed and sparkled when the time came for bringing all these great preparations to fruition. It is easy to imagine how beautiful all this must have been when lighted up and seen through the slight mist of a hot summer's night—a mist not dense enough to obscure the lights, but still sufficiently opaque to hide the more solid material they covered.

Rising far above all the other picturesque edifices that were illuminated on this occasion, appeared the lofty Tower of Ivan Veliki, or Ivan the Great—the first of the Czars. The original purpose of this Tower is unknown, but, like the Great Bell, it is one of the curiosities of the Kremlin. It is about 270 feet high, and on each stage are "whole families of bells." These are thirty-three in number, and various in size, the smallest weighing 7,000 pounds. On festivals these bells are all tolled together, the Muscovites being, it is stated, extremely fond of Ivan Veliki's music. Before the invasion of Russia by Napoleon, a cross of gold crowned the summit; but this formed part of the spoil, and it has been replaced by something less valuable. From the summit is the finest view of Moscow, as well as of the surrounding country—indeed the finest panoramic view in the world.

On the occasion of this memorable coronation, the Tower of Ivan Veliki was magnificently lighted. Variegated lights formed the Imperial Crown on the summit, and the Tower was covered with illuminations from top to bottom. The churches immediately under had their golden domes illuminated, and were objects of great attraction, particularly the Cathedral wherein the Emperor was crowned. The tower of the Spassky Gate was a mass of fire. From thence the celebrated church of William the Sanctified, with its seven towers or domes, in the form of a pineapple, were perhaps the most varied, the most



THE TOWER OF IVAN VELIKI, AT MOSCOW, ILLUMINATED.

elegant, and most graceful, of all the Russian illuminations. The garlands on the roofs or domes were exceedingly light and tasteful. Our engraving will give the reader a correct notion of that portion of this magnificent scene in which the Tower of Ivan Veliki formed so conspicuous an object.



Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

THE NEW MANTLES

THE NEW MANTLES.

THE mantles shown in the accompanying illustration are accurate representations of the newest patterns for the present season. We give the names by which these mantles are distinguished, and which have been conferred on them by the eminent Parisian *modiste* by whom the mantles have been introduced. We may add, that three illustrious ladies, viz., the Princess Olga, the Princess Palatine, and the Duchess of Alba, have each ordered a mantle of the pattern to which their names are respectively applied.

Fig. 1. *The Queen of Oude* is a very richly-trimmed mantle. It is made of black velvet, and is edged with a broad black silk net fringe, with a heading of passementerie and jet. A deep fall of black Chantilly lace descends over the back and shoulders in the style of a cape. The upper part of the mantle is ornamented by several rows of embroidery in black silk, interspersed with jet.

Fig. 2. *Princess Olga*.—This mantle, which is also of black velvet, is of the shawl form; that is to say, it falls low and somewhat pointed at the back. It is edged with a very deep fall of black lace. Above the broad fall of lace, the mantle is ornamented with rows of black silk embroidery, jet, and narrow lace.

Fig. 3. *The Olerland* is suitable for plain out-door costume. It is composed of very fine gray cloth, and the pattern consists of two distinct parts, forming, as it were, a double mantle gathered up in large box plaits. Both parts of this double mantle are edged with a trimming of black velvet in a Greek pattern. The neck, which is shaped in the form of a hood, is trimmed with black and gray fringe and tassels.

Fig. 4. *The Cresus*.—This mantle may be made in black or any dark-coloured velvet—as blue, green, or brown. It is of the circular shape, and the lower part is set on as a sounce in large plaits. The trimming consists of embroidery and broad fringe, intermingled with jet.

Fig. 5. *The Tyrolean*.—This is a plain mantle, of a style suitable for walking dress. It may be made of gray or brown cloth. The trimming is of passementerie and fringe.

Fig. 6. *The Princess Palatine* is intended for travelling, or for the plainest style of out-door morning costume. It is made of woollen plaid, and is cut the bias way of the material, the chequers forming a lozenge pattern. It is trimmed with chenille-fringe and passementerie.

Fig. 7. *The Duchess of Alba*. This is a very elegant basquine, made of black velvet, profusely ornamented with lace, jet, and embroidery in an elaborate arabesque design.

For elegant winter cloaks, destined for the carriage or promenade, black velvet will be the favourite material. Fur trimmings will also be fashionable as the winter advances. Sable and chinchilla are the furs best adapted for trimming cloaks of black or dark-coloured velvet. Many cloaks of the bourgeois form have recently been made. From their ample width and length, they have the advantage of covering the dress completely; but they are less convenient than cloaks of smaller dimensions, and we doubt whether they will ever become general favourites in outdoor costume.

Bournouses intended for the opera and for evening wraps are made of cashmere of gay colours—scarlet and blue are the colours preferred. They are ornamented with embroidery, braid, and a profusion of tassels. Small opera cloaks of the usual form are lavishly trimmed with braid, fancy ribbon, velvet fringe, &c.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ONE of our readers is informed that his communication is left for him at the office.

On old maid, who has failed to perceive the joke in the article on Wedding Customs, has written to us a long letter in defence of her sex generally, so far as their anxiety for matrimonial honours is concerned, and in praise of female celibacy in particular. We beg to assure her that the satire contained in the article in question was kindly meant.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1856.

OUR NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

WHILE the Spaniards are once more plunged into their old tyranny, and the Yankees raging with civil wrath, we English are rather put to it for an intellectual excitement. In such a lull, we cannot but think it a sign of grace that some people seem inclined to show honour to the old heroes of the land. The Scotch are getting up a monument to their famous Wallace; and the idea is not only instructive in itself, but suggestive to the southern mind also.

In London we are shamefully off for mementoes either of the brave or the wise. Hideous statues of the Georges are indeed to be seen; and in Farringdon Street there is an obelisk up, to commemorate an alderman. Without asking whether the Peel in Cheapside be worthy of that statesman or the capital, who denies the general ugliness of our statues? The Fox, in Bloomsbury, and the Pitt, in Hanover Squares—the Canning at Westminster, and the Wellington opposite Apsley House—are positively painful. Why a Duke of Bedford should have one in Russell Square—except on the good old principle, that people have a right to what they pay for—nobody can tell. We had "a narrow squeak" to escape from a statue to Hudson, but luckily his pecuniary affairs went wrong; and having lost his cash, he was discovered to have lost his merit. Why, in the name of art and of history, is a great city so haunted by little works of art? And if the existing ones are ugly, the omissions are still more wonderful to contemplate. Our old kings and old nobles—our great Elizabethan and Commonwealth men—our Shakespeares and Spensers, Cromwells and Blakes, Sidneys, and Vases, and Miltons—are utterly unhonoured. We pick out, too, for our ugly celebrations, all the second-raters. The English do not appear to know that they ever had a hero before 1688; whereas, in truth, all the greatest and best Englishmen had appeared before that time. This is forgotten, because the popular historians have usually written in the interest of the oligarchical families who have ruled since. Our freedom—our Protestantism—our best literature—our most vital institutions—our greatest battles—were all the products of a race of men long anterior to the breed of the last century. That race is no longer celebrated, either in song or in stone—one reason of the indifference to tradition which now characterises the English, and of the dead materialism which rests on the life of the working classes.

The Scotch are, in the matter of the Wallace monument, setting a good example, doing a good work, and meriting an affectionate sympathy. They desire to embody, in some form of permanent grace, one of the national ideas; indeed, the very idea of the nationality of Scotland itself, of which William Wallace was one of the earliest and the noblest types. That nationality has played an important part in modern times. By being national, the Scotch became Presbyterians; by Presbyterianism they became religiously educated; and to that great advantage the mass of Scots have owed the influence which they have exercised for ages past on every form of the activity of Europe—commercial, military, literary, and the rest. But the nationality itself they owed, in the first instance, to the swords of those who prevented their country from becoming an English province. If that great man, Edward the First, had been successful in his ultimate policy, there really would have been no Scotland. The Celts might have been safe in their hills, but the real Scotland, which (as its language proves) is essentially Teutonic—the Scotland of Knox, and Hume, and Burns—would never have had a substantive existence. All is confusion before the period when the work, begun by Wallace, was completed and consummated by Bruce. One great province—Galloway—is "held" by its princes, of the English kings. Norman and Saxon, Danish and Flemish families, are living cheek by jowl. The most potent houses have lauds in England and Scotland both, and hardly know to which side of the Tweed they belong. In the midst of all this comes a disputed succession and an English conquest; and then arises Wallace, the hero-martyr of the new position. He dies for the cause of pure nationality, and his life and blood together prepare the way for the success of Bruce.

Such a man is one whom the Scotch naturally delight to honour, and whom a generous Englishman can well afford to admire. If the Welch are anxious to believe that he was a Welchman (instead of a Norman gentleman), why, where's the great harm? The national disputes which belong to the man's career are now of little importance, but it is not of little importance that valour and beauty of character should be held in remembrance, and commemorated in art. We therefore wish every success to the Wallace Monument; and we trust that the example will act as a stimulant to the public sentiment on this southern side of the border.

One word on an aspect of the matter too much neglected. This is an age which talks much of education, and which really believes in it rather than in most things; yet we shamefully neglect the historical elements in it. We do not deny the use of experiments with chemical bottles, or the value of "common things." But we know that there is no knowledge so immediately moral and impressive, as the knowledge of history and biography. It is equally solid, and it is more attractive; for observation may teach us that, if the unlettered man is awakened to curiosity by being shown the properties of the stone against which he strikes his foot, or of the flower by the wayside, he is always more curious to learn something of the life of man himself in those days whose remains, in one shape or other, meet him at every turn. Now, national monuments are a part of the historical education of a country. They teach the people whom they should admire, and in whom they should believe; they are useful, too, as helping to modify the temporary admirations and "hero-worships" of the hour.

JOINT-STOCK FELONIES.

THE Golden Age unfortunately is past. Ages of Silver, and Iron, and Brass, have been said to succeed the auriferous *era*, but they too must now be numbered with by-gone ages. The present time might perhaps be described as an Age of Paper: of scrip certificates, preferential shares, coupons, accommodation bills, dock and "spelter" warrants (occasionally forged), Venezuelan bonds, and deferred debentures. Unless we are much mistaken, we are verging on the advent of another age; and if it be true that "coming events cast their shadows before," this new epoch promises very fairly to be the Age of Mercury: we don't mean anything metallic as connected with barometer-bulls, or the basis of a blue-pill, but Mercury with the caduceus—Mercury of Lemprière's "Classical Dictionary." To be plain, Mercury, god of Thieves.

The light-fingered deity, having seemingly withdrawn his protection from highwaymen and footpads, and his long-established sway over juvenile pickpockets being menaced by the reformatory and ragged-school union, appears to have transferred his attentions and sympathies to the commercial-financial classes of society. Driven out of Wild Court and the Rue aux Fives by the city missionary, the glare of the policeman's bull's-eye, and the Emperor Napoleon's brick-and-mortar preventive, the astute Hermes has sought shelter in the congenial penetralia of Capel Court, in the recesses of snug city board rooms and resident directors' parlours, and in the *coulisses* of the Paris Bourse. Education and civilisation, whose hot sunshine will, please Heaven, wither up the weeds and tares of crime in St. Giles, appears only to ripen the grain in which the rogues of joint-stockery lie so snug; and when the cry goes forth that the walls of "Rat's Castle" and the "Thieves' Kitchen," like those of Babelutha, are desolate, we apprehend that the sounds of mirth and feasting will be heard from the Board-Room of the West Middlesex Association, in the "Share-Row" of "Vanity Fair," and that Belshazzar, the chairman, will be drinking in vessels of gold and silver (made from shareholders' money), to the Rogues' Millennium.

It is not because the three Strand bankers who pawned Doctor Griffiths' bonds are now expiating their malversation in a degrading captivity; or because Messrs. Davidson and Gordon did business on so large a scale in the dock-warrant line; or because the wretched clerk of the Globe Insurance Office stole eighty thousand pounds and hanged himself; or because those Corsican twins of villainy—the Sadiers, James and John, ruined so many thousand innocent persons; or because Messrs. Gillet, Carpentier, and Co., of the Great Northern Railway of France, took a trip across the Atlantic with something else belonging to the Company's strong box besides the key; or because the Royal British Bank has thrown discredit on the name of Royalty, and has made things British smell in the nostrils of foreign nations by assuredly the most infamous Bank "smash"—it is more costly than any bankruptcy that has occurred for half a century; or, lastly, because at the very moment we write there is a most miserable man who has betrayed his trust and robbed a great Company of thousands of pounds, and is now, quite broken down and unavailingly penitent, awaiting his doom: it is not specially because these glaring instances of commercial turpitude have been crowded in occurrence on each other within so short a space of time, that we have been led to augur so ominously the imminence of a Saturnalia of Dishonesty—the fruits of commercial demoralisation. In every age, and in every state of human society, we know what black fruit the seeds sown by human avarice, cupidity, and mendacity will bear. We know that in the fairest flocks in Arcadia there must have been from time to time a tainted wether. We know that in the old time Vestal Virgins must have fallen, and Spartan boys cried under the scourge; even, as in our own days, priests have disgraced their cassocks and nuns forgotten their vows, and the guardians of widows and orphans been unfaithful to their trust. It would be unjust indeed to bring commerce into discredit because one banker pawns bonds, and one clerk robs the till; because this secretary helps himself to preference shares, or that director "takes seventy thousand pounds." But making every allowance for the irremediable average of human delinquency, it is as irrational as it is impossible to avoid regarding the multifarious cases of joint-stock felony that are now being continuously brought to light, to avoid looking at them at least as straws, showing which way the wind blows, and to come at last to the mournful conviction that the wind so blowing is a very simoom of rascality and chicanery—that it is blowing over a howling desert—with some honourable and exceptional cases—but that the rest is all sand and lies, shards and pebbles, and forged signatures, burning marl and cooked accounts, Dead-sea apples and abstracted balances.

If any one reasoning man thinks that we are taking an exaggerated view of the commercial depravity of the age, let him only glance at the names of honour and rank, and weight and wealth, to be found in the direction-lists of associations that are daily exploding as disreputable and dangerous swindles. Let him read the reports of shareholders' meetings, where men who ought to be as far above suspicion as Cæsar's wife, are stigmatised on the open platform as common thieves and swindlers. Let him attend the "indignation" meeting of an insurance company, where some friendly apologist half admits that the manager ought certainly to be dismissed, but at the same time pleads that he had much better be retained in office, as he is a "regular company maker," and would infallibly go and start another company elsewhere. Let such a sceptic, finally, ponder over this: that clerks at salaries of thirty shillings and two pounds per week, can go on for years living at the rate of two thousand per annum—can go on managing theatres, running race horses, keeping carriages, dogs, and dancing-girls, living in abbeys and priories, with separate establishments at St. John's Wood, and all this without adding anything but the flimsiest reasons for the augmentation of their income, and without apparently exciting the slightest suspicions on the part of their (of course) immaculate employers, till the final smash and the denouement of the lamentable drama of absconding, pursuit by a detective, capture, trial, and transportation. We are not about to crave commiseration for these criminals; but whenever they appear at Bow Street, we cannot help thinking of the joint-stock magnates who steal their thousands on security. If the dishonest clerk could be put on his trial before the dishonest directors, he might, we think, paraphrase very aptly the defence of a Frenchman in the service of Russia, who was once arraigned before a native tribunal for the offence of taking bribes. Asked what he had to say, he simply commenced the conjugation of the verb "prendre"—to take—present tense: "I take, thou takest, he takes; we take, you take, they take," he said, beginning with himself, and ending at the *fautails* of the three presidents. He was at once acquitted.

We might strengthen our argument considerably as to the mercurial tendencies of this age, and the encouraging prospect of their development in the next, by pointing to the existing state of things among our Allies across the channel. If, instead of that sententious paradox "*L'Empire c'est la Paix*," the third Napoleon had said, "*L'Empire sera la Bourse*," he would have been nearer the truth. We might show Mercury in all his glory in the one vast gambling-house into which Paris has been converted, and deduce some notable conclusions from that agreeable state of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity brought about by the lust of gain in which Marshalls and Senators pit their francs against *chiffonniers* and coffee-house waiters, and in which Princesses of the blood imperial play at the *haussse* and the *baisse* with courtesans. But we have quite enough to do, we opine, to look at home. The Bubble Company Advertisements and the Police Reports offer quite enough food for reflections on the healthy state of our commercial anatomy.

AN OPENING FOR LIEUTENANT MASSEY.

WE regret that "Punch" is generally considered to be a "close borough," and that its staff of comic writers is an *anquet*. It is a pity, too, that the "Puppet Show," "Diogenes," and a long line of rival comic publications, are all dead: that, like Coleridge's Sir Arthur Orellan,

"Their bones are dust,
Their good swords rust,
Their souls are with the Saints, we trust."

It is a burning shame also that we have no "Almanach Comique," or "Almanach pour rire," like the French; for, with any such publications available, there would be an excellent opening for Lieutenant Massey—commonly known as "Redan" Massey—as a comic contributor. This

deserving young officer, not contented with behaving like a true and gallant soldier at the siege of Sebastopol—not content with his medal and clasps—not content with winning, and richly deserving, the cross of the Legion of Honour—has evidently been turning these "piping times of peace" to account, in the sedulous study of Hood and Haunay, and the Smiths (Horace, Sydney, Albert, *cum multis aliis*), and Jerrold and Mayhew, and Brough and Bon Gaultier, and all the other epigram archers and comic cross-bow men of the day. The young Lieutenant's letter to the "Globe," though far too long, contains some excellent "comic copy," albeit the miseries of being a hero; and we venture to predict that, in the event of any sanguine (and slightly insane) capitalist starting another comic journal, the editor thereof would be only too happy to offer "Redan" Massey the customary two guineas per column for "smart articles," which he would find no contemptible addition to his subaltern's pay. It is true that our Lieutenant is slightly diffuse, slightly redundant. His arrows are sharp, but want more tempering in the fire yet. But there is much hope for him, comically. Let him remember the story of old Archibald Constable, the book-eller, who had five geese in a pond, which geese he christened "Longman, Rees, Orme, Green, and Brown," after that celebrated bibliophilic firm, whose name was legion. "See," he was wont to say, "yon's young Brown. He's but a gosling now, but he'll be a brave gander in time." Lieutenant Massey is not quite fledged yet, but he will have some "braw" things to say about John Bright and Charles Kean in the fulness of time, we have no doubt.

We are happy to believe, that in addition to being a "wag," Lieutenant Massey is a very brave and honest and modest young gentleman. We would therefore amicably advise him (unless indeed he really wishes to turn his talents to purposes of commercial comicality) to leave the "Globe" to its own devices, and not to worry himself about the silly people and sillier newspapers, that persist in making him a hero against his will, and in bespattering him with injudicious praise, or that, like the "Globe," unfairly attempt to deprive him of that merit which is his undoubted one. He will find the benefit of our advice when, twenty years hence, perhaps the people and the press begin to abuse him as *Lieut.-Colonel Massey*, because he may have married a *ma quai's* sister. Let him continue to do his duty tranquilly and modestly, as he has hitherto done, and as for the rest—*as for that blazing Fame, so ready to blow out of the wrong trumpet*, let him treat her as the Roman recommends us to treat Fortune, and puff the—very light personage—away.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY returned from Scotland on Wednesday, Prince Albert is reported to have killed forty stags this season.

THE ROYAL FAMILY OF SWEDEN is about to contract an alliance with the ducal family of Nassau. The marriage of Prince Oscar, second son of the King of Sweden, born in 1829, with the Princess Sophie, born in 1836, the youngest sister of the reigning Duke of Nassau, has been determined on.

A DRUIDICAL "ROCK BASIN," far exceeding in size any other on Dartmoor, has been recently discovered on Castor Rock.

THE FRENCH ARMY IN ALGERIA have had some brilliant engagements with the insurgent Kabyles, in which the loss of the latter was very considerable.

ON THE QUAYS OF THE LOIRE, at Tours, a wall of solid masonry has been built, to avert the dangers of any new inundation. On the banks of the Cher works are also going on with great rapidity.

SIR WILLIAM GORDON, of the 17th Lancers, is the latest "Crimean hero," would we could write—the last. He is to be entertained by his neighbours at Kirkcudbright on the 25th inst., the anniversary of the famous "charge of fools." A portrait of Sir William and his charger is to be presented to him on the occasion.

M. WINTERHALTER, who has painted several portraits of the Emperor and Empress of the French, has commenced one of the Imperial Prince.

NEARLY 200 CONVICTS have been installed into the new convict Prison at Chatham. The new establishment at Chatham affords accommodation for 1,100 convicts.

THE COUNCIL of the Carlisle Church of England Religious and General Literary Association have presented a congratulatory address to Dr. Tait on his elevation to the see of London.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN ADAMS and of the mutineers of the Bounty have emigrated from Pitcairn's Island, and have taken up their residence upon Norfolk Island, which had previously been given up as a penal settlement.

PROFESSOR MORSE, author of the telegraphic system now in operation in the United States, Canada, and a considerable part of Europe, was entertained at dinner last week by some gentlemen representing our various telegraph companies.

LORD MAIDSTONE is said by the "Manchester Guardian" to be "another turf defaulter." The nature and extent of his defaultations we do not learn.

TWO HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD have been offered for the discovery of the persons who caused the late incendiary fires at Bicester.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY COMPANY have just issued a notice inviting tenders for loans.

H.M.S.S. PYLADES, 22, Captain D'Eyncourt; and Brilliant, 20, Captain Paynter are reported lost on the North American station.

MR. THOMAS CAMPBELL, for many years actuary of the savings bank at Bromley in Kent, has absconded, leaving a deficiency of £500 in his accounts.

A GOVERNMENT REWARD OF FIFTY POUNDS is offered for the apprehension of a burglar, who, with some companions, broke into Mrs. Syke's house at Somerton, and so cruelly beat her that her life is in danger. Mrs. Syke is eighty years old.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF has appointed Sergeant Murphy, of the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, a distinguished and most exemplary non-commissioned officer, to be a Yeoman of the Guard at St. James's Palace.

MR. WILLIAM HARVEY, a well-known pantomimist and ballet-master, committed suicide by jumping overboard from the Helen McGregor steamer during her last voyage from Hamburg to Hull.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR COLIN CAMPBELL, G.C.B., the Inspector-General of Infantry, has returned to town from a tour of inspection in the provinces.

A NEW BROCHURE, by M. Froudhon, under the title, "No more Rents," is announced as about to appear in Paris.

HOGAN, THE IRISH SCULPTOR, has just sent to Paris the model of his monumental statue of O'Connell for the purpose of being cast in bronze. The inauguration of the statue will take place next month in Dublin.

MR. THACKERAY will deliver a course of lectures at the Glasgow Athenæum during the next month.

THE VACANT CAPTAINCY OF GREENWICH HOSPITAL has been conferred upon Captain William Alexander Willis.

THE RAVEN, an American ship, on her voyage from New York to Sumatra, came in collision with the Brazilian brig *Catão*. The *Catão* immediately sank; master and part of the crew saved; two hands and thirty negro passengers drowned.

FROM THE MIDDLESEX REGISTRATION LIST—lately revised—it would appear the Conservatives in that county have a majority of 653.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD AMONG THE FRIENDS OF THE LATE MISS MITFORD, that selections from her Correspondence are in preparation by the Rev. W. Harness, her executor and friend.

THE WEATHER IN THE NORTH has greatly improved, and, taking advantage of it, the farmers have got all their crops in.

ADDISON HAD HIS MONUMENT already in Westminster Abbey; but the precise spot in which his remains are interred was only marked the other day—by a slab inlaid in the pavement—by the Earl of Ellesmere, with name and date engraved thereupon.

TWO GENTLEMEN "in the Liberal interest" are wooing the voters of Great Yarmouth—Mr. Torrens M'Cullagh, and Mr. E. W. Watkin, of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway. They are not opponents, apparently, but allies; and they both take very "popular" views of things in general.

THE TOWN-COUNCIL OF DERBY have unanimously voted an address to Lord Belper on his elevation to the Peerage. They speak of it as a "well-deserved honour," and see in it a recognition of the importance of commercial industry.

AT SHEERNESS, last week, as a company was at garrison gun practice, a 33-pounder exploded. The man who fired the gun was killed instantly; another had both legs dreadfully mutilated; a third received a severe concussion on the brain; and a fourth was slightly wounded on the right hip.

THE STOCKPORT CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION, after an existence of twenty years, has been broken up for want of support; and it is said that the library, of about a thousand volumes, and other effects, are to be brought to the hammer to pay off the liabilities.

A HUNDRED THOUSAND PASSENGERS, it is said, were conveyed by railway from St. Petersburg to Moscow between the middle of August and the middle of September.

THE NILE has risen twenty-four cubits, which is regarded as a most fortunate omen, and promises well for the next harvest. His Highness the Viceroy has accordingly raised the land tax twelve piastres, or 2s. 6d. the measure, equal to an English acre.

LORD GODRIC has declined to be put in nomination for the representation of the city of Lincoln.

THE ENGLISH REPRESENTATIVES at the coronation of the Czar are on their way home.

A LITTLE BOY was run over by an omnibus in Oxford Street on Monday, and killed. His head was nearly severed from his body.

LOUIS GREY, EUGENE GREY, and AUGUSTUS PARROT CHORRELL, charged with being concerned in the great robbery of the Northern Railway of France, were arrested in America, and brought to Liverpool in the Niagara by Mr. Goddard, a London detective.

THE SWISS LEGION is in a fair way of annihilation, there being little more, we understand, than 400 men to be discharged, which will be accomplished in another fortnight at most.

REMARKS OF FOUR TONS WEIGHT OF BAD MEAT was destroyed on Tuesday at Newgate Market by the inspectors. It had come from the country, and the salemen gave notice of its unsound quality.

A LARGE NUMBER OF CANNON etc. at the present time casting for Sardinia at the royal foundry of Akers. On the application of the Consul-General of Sardinia, at Stockholm, the King has authorised Lieutenant Huit, of the royal navy, to superintend the production of the guns.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND have determined to make advances on stock for seven days only.

THE KING OF GREECE, the Grand Duke and Duchess of Hesse, the Prince Leopold of Bavaria, and the Prince Royal Louis, arrived in Augsburg on the 7th, and all paid their respects to the Empress-Dowager of Russia, who left the same day for Ulm.

SIR JOHN POLKINGHTEEN lectured at Brighton on Wednesday on behalf of the London Committee for supplying the Italian patriots with 100 cannons and 1000 muskets. On Thursday he lectured at Leeds. He will proceed from Leeds to Newcastle, Northampton, and other towns, to which he has been invited by influential persons.

MR. ROBSON, THE ACTOR, was taken suddenly ill at Manchester last week; but, we are happy to say, soon recovered.

LETTERS FROM AUSTRIAN OFFICERS of the Principalities give anything but a pleasing sketch of their experience. They are slurred by all the respectable abolitionists, and the greater number appear to have no other solace than gambling.

DR. LIVINGSTON, the African traveller, has arrived at the Mauritius in H.M.S. Erebus.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS

THE appointment of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge to the chief command of the army was not so utterly popular as certain persons and journals would lead us to suppose. There were old prejudices in people's minds, prejudices against his German origin, his £12,000 a-year voted by the country, his haw-hawish, *de haut en bas* manner. These prejudices were not allayed by his Crimean adventures; gossipings of disagreements with Lord Raglan, of curious eccentric behaviour, were rumoured in the clubs, and eventually he came home, long before most other persons of his rank, having in no way distinguished himself. To be sure, he was "the soldier's friend," but so had been the Duke of York before him, and he was not held up as a general model for royal princes; and since then he has been simply negative and chip-in-porridgeish. Now, however, he has the opportunity of distinguishing himself, and of gaining a popularity which shall not only be lasting, but which shall bear scrutiny. A member of the aristocracy, whose deeds have already been the subject of severe and indignant comment, a son of one of the proudest women in England, has in company with two other officers, been accused of a series of most blackguard and raffish assaults and insults upon an unoffending young man. He has been placed under arrest, and his trial has yet to take place. In cases of this kind there is generally an exaggerated statement, but if the conduct alleged against Lord Ernest Vane Tempest is proved, the degree of punishment to be inflicted upon him will rest with the Duke of Cambridge, and by that nobleman's behaviour on this occasion will his status with the British public rest. If the officers accused are proved to have been guilty of the conduct imputed to them, they must be "broke," as the phrase is; no milder punishment will satisfy the public feeling. The past few years have given very unpleasant insights into the mysteries of barracks and mess *ménages*; we have had the 46th and Lieut. Perry case, the Windsor Theatre case, and the insolvent paymaster case. We glory in our army, and the members of that body glory to an extent in themselves; but we must hear a different account of their mode of life if they wish our glory in them to last. The freaks of these Brighton officers will disgust every decent person; let us hear that proper justice has been meted out to the perpetrators of them, and the Commander-in-Chief will be one of the most popular and respected men in England.

Our literary celebrities are returning home. Mr. Dickens, frightened from his Boulogne chateau by the illness there raging, has been some time back in London. Those who enjoy his friendship will, I hear, be again gratified by a theatrical representation by the admirable Tavistock House Company, for whom Mr. Wilkie Collins has written another romantic drama. Mr. Thackeray has returned from Spa, and is in London. On the 4th of next month, however, he delivers the first of his lectures on the "Four Georges" at the Glasgow Athenæum. Mr. Albert Smith has also returned from Chamouni, where he was received with the usual rejoicings, and, despite of the thunders of the "Thunderer," intends re-opening his entertainment on the 24th of next month. Mr. G. A. Sala, sate from Russian influence, is rejoining for the present at Brussels, working out the recollections of his St. Petersburg trip.

I have in former articles had occasion to allude to the painful position of Mr. Angus B. Reach, a few years ago one of the most rising of our young literary men. Mr. Reach, besides being the musical and theatrical critic of the "Morning Chronicle" (a very different paper from the "Chronicle" of these days), was a most pleasant light writer, and published a variety of amusing shilling books. He was also the author of a work of much higher flight, in which, under the fanciful title of "Claret and Olives," he gave a vivid and interesting description of the people of southern and eastern France. From unremitting labour (it is said he worked sixteen hours a day) his brain gave way, and he is at the present moment, and has been for some time, utterly incapable of any mental exertion. Your readers will be happy to learn that, under Lord Palmerston's recommendation, Mr. Reach has recently received a gratuity of £100. Mrs. Gilbert A'Beckett has also been placed upon the Civil List with a pension of £100 a year.

The feeling of discontent in Paris, long-known but ignored, is now matter of common gossip. People talk of Mr. Magne and his circular, of the monetary crisis, and of the want of bread for the lower classes; but the real outcry appears to be against the Emperor himself. The French are people who can be educated up to anything, and having been educated into an entire belief in Louis Napoleon, they feel now that they cannot do without him, and that when he is even absent from Paris, affairs are likely to go wrong. Thus his prolonged stay at Plombières and Biarritz has been much commented on, and to it alone are ascribed many of the present commercial difficulties. The reason of this is plain—Louis Napoleon is a self-created favourite; he has pulled himself to the topmost round of the ladder of popular opinion, and considering it is a French ladder, is tolerably secure there; but he has been unable to pull up his adherents with him, and the Cabinet of France is composed of men who have neither the advantage of birth nor station to make them respected by the people. It is a critical time, and no one knows it better than Napoleon himself; he is said indeed to be expecting a crisis. Those placards, found stuck up every morning by no one knows who, in the public streets, remind one unpleasantly of similar acts and scenes in the year '48, and a black cloud seems gradually settling over Paris, the bursting of which may lead to very serious consequences.

Mr. E. M. Whitty, well-known as a brilliant journalist, and whose political papers published in the "Leader" under the title of "The Stranger in Parliament," deservedly gained him reputation, has, for some time past, had a novel announced for publication by Messrs. Smith and Elder, in which some daring writing may be looked for. The evils of the *cliquette* of London literary society, will, it is said, form the principal theme of the work.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEWS.

THE pleasantest paper in the new number of the "Westminster" is entitled "Silly Novels, by Lady Novelists," and is written with a pungent sarcasm, which, in these days of say-nothingness, is quite refreshing. The writer, having a thorough knowledge of his subject, enters upon it in the happiest spirit, and his article is excellently written with the greatest gusto. There is no trace of forced writing throughout it; the silliness of lady novelists has evidently been a theme on which he has pondered, and, pen once in hand, he relieves himself of his sacrosanct spleen against them. He starts with a controversion of the theory that penury is the spur which drives women on to write, although he owns that he once indulged in this belief; now, however, he finds that:—

"Women's silly novels, we are convinced, are written under totally different circumstances. The writers have evidently never talked to a tradesman except as 'dependents'; they have no notion of the working classes except as 'dependents'; they think five hundred a-year a miserable pittance, and they are not 'dependents' on their husbands; and they have no idea of being interested in any man who is not at least a great landed proprietor, or a prime minister. It is clear that they write in elegant boudoirs, with violet-coloured ink and a ruby pen; that they must be entirely indifferent to publishers' accounts, and inexperienced in every form of poverty except poverty of brains. It is true that we are constantly struck with the want of verisimilitude in their representations of the high society in which they seem to live; but then they betray no closer acquaintance with any other form of life. If their poets and poets are impenetrable, their literary men, tradespeople, and cottagers are impossible; and their intellect seems to have the peculiar impermeability of rejecting both what they have seen and heard, and what they have not seen and heard, with equal unfaithfulness."

The current varieties of these novels (designated, of the "main body," "military species") are cleverly described; we have fashionably, once more, a novel, novels of "the mixed style," and, best of all, the "white-neck-cloth" novel, duly quoted and trotted out for our ridicule. The absurdities of the modern antique novel are also sharply inveighed against, and the conclusion of the article should be read by all fallible young ladies, who think it "so nice" and so interesting to write books. Female novelists of any pretension, says the writer, quoting the names of Harriet Martineau, Currer Bell, and Mrs. Gaskell, receive no dainty treatment at the hands of critics, but are reviewed solely on their literary merits. Happily for them, these merits are undeniable; but with the general run of lady-novelists the reverse is the case, and reviewers are recommended henceforth to deal with them according to their deserts. The concluding sentences should be read by every feminine aspirant for literary honours:—

"No educational restrictions as to what women out from the materials of fiction, and there is no species of art which is so free from rigid requirements. Like crystalline masses, it may take any form, and yet be beautiful; we have only to pour in the right elements—genuine observation, humour, and passion. But it is precisely this absence of rigid requirement which constitutes the fatal seduction of novel-writing to the impetuous woman. Ladies are not wont to be very grossly deceived as to their power of playing on the piano; here certain positive difficulties of execution have to be conquered, and incompetence inevitably breaks down. Every art which has its absolute technique is, to a certain extent, guarded from the intrusions of mere left-handed imbecility. But in novel-writing there are no barriers for ineptitude to stumble against, no external criteria to prevent a writer from mistaking foolish facility for mastery. And so we have again and again the old story of La Fontaine's ass, who puts his nose to the flute, and, finding that he emits some sound, exclaims, 'Moi, aussi, je joue de la flûte!'—a fable which we commend, at parting, to the consideration of any female reader who is in danger of adding to the number of 'silly novels by lady novelists.'"

An analysis of the history of "George Forster," a name (to my shame be it spoken, I suppose), hitherto unknown to me, is interesting and instructive, tracing the life of the boy naturalist who went out with Captain Cook, from his poverty-stricken birth until his miserable death. The now most popular question relative to the "Property of Married Women" is the subject of another article, and the wrongs of the female sex are pointed out and their proper position advocated in an earnest and conscientious manner. Many anecdotes, illustrative of the present finding of the law, are quoted; among them is one which narrates that a husband who for years had lived by the exercise of his wife's talents, died, bequeathing the fortune which she had amassed to his own illegitimate children. Lord Cockburn's "Memorials of his own Times" form the basis of a review of political and literary society in Edinburgh fifty years ago; and there is an interesting article on "Alchemy and Alchemists," in which the abstruse study is defended with much genuine warmth. The review of "Contemporary Literature" is, as usual, interesting and diffuse.

The new number of the "Edinburgh Review," opens with a notice of the "Life and Works of Francis Arago," whose biography is rather fully given. His worth as a scientific authority on optical science is duly acknowledged, and the importance of his investigations in the theories of the polarisation of light, admitted and commented on.

In an article entitled "New Poets," the heads of the "spasmodic school," Messrs. Alexander Smith, P. J. Bailey, and Dobell, are criticised individually and collectively. The love of fine writing and the craving after fame exhibited by these poets generally, is severely condemned, but due credit is given to the many beauties scattered throughout the works of all of them. Extracts from the "Roman," and "Balder" from the "Life Drama" and "Festus" are freely given. No allowance is however made for these writers on the score of juvenility or want of practice—as, from the specimens they have already published, the reviewer believes that they have already attained their maximum celebrity, and will never do better. The poems of Allingham, Arnold, Owen Meredith, and "V." are also noticed with a considerable amount of favour. "Sinai and Palestine" is devoted to strong laudation of Mr. Stanley's work of that name, and to a severe castigation of Mr. Burton's extreme zeal in affecting the devout Mussulman, which is denounced as derogatory to a Christian gentleman. His perseverance, courage, and lively descriptions, are, however, warmly praised.

Other articles in the "Edinburgh" are on "Vehse's German Courts," reviews of "Perversion," which is warmly condemned, and of M. de Lomenie's "Beaumarchais," and a political article on the present American crisis, and the slave question generally.

I cannot review the "Quarterly" until next week.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

EUGENE SUE's novel of "La Barbe Bleue" has been dramatised in an English form, and produced at Drury Lane, under the title of the "Adventure." The wildness and improbability of the story, which are lost sight of by the readers, are painfully apparent to the spectators, and the drama, though possessing a certain amount of melodramatic interest, will not, I should think, for long hold possession of the stage. The principal part is played by Mr. Barry Sullivan in an effective manner.

Mrs. Wigan, after a very long and painful illness, has made her re-entrée at the Olympic, in the character of Mrs. Hector Sternhold, in "Still Waters Run Deep;" and was received with great enthusiasm. The cast is weakened by the secession of Mr. Emery from the company; his part was unaccountably filled by Mr. G. Cooke.

"The Three Musketeers" was produced at the Lyceum on Thursday, of which I will give particulars next week; a farce, called "Doing the Hanson," by Mr. Augustus Harris, is underlined.

DANISH COPYRIGHT LAW.—A letter from Denmark mentions a fact which is not generally known, and the like of which, we believe, exists in no other country—it is, that literary property is perpetuated in that kingdom. The children of the dramatic poet Glendeschlager, lately applied to the Minister of the Interior for a brevet, granting to them and their heirs the exclusive property of their father's works for the space of one hundred years; but the Minister said that no brevet was necessary, inasmuch as the existing laws, beyond all manner of doubt, confer on the heirs of a deceased author the right to publish his works, or to sell it, the right being of indefinite duration, the same as that to real property.

THE NEW MILITARY KNIGHTS OF WINDSOR.—Two new Military Knights of Windsor have been appointed—Quartermaster S. Goddard, in succession to the late Sir John Miley Doyle, K.C.B.; and Major Hopkins, to the vacancy caused by the death of Lieutenant Fleming. Quartermaster S. Goddard was forty-four years in the Buckinghamshire Regiment of Foot, and served at the Battle of Waterloo and the Storming of Cambray. He was also at the Siege of Hattaras, throughout the campaigns of 1817 and 1818, in the Decau, and at the Siege and Storming of Blomport in 1826. Major Hopkins is a Knight of Hanover, and formerly of the 43rd and 95th Regiments.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

THE "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

THE revival of Pizarro not having been such a great success as was anticipated, the "Midsummer Night's Dream" was produced at the Princess's on Wednesday evening, with many Keane-like and scenic effects. It is essentially one of those plays which will bear those adjuncts of dress, decoration, and action, which are now always attached to Shakespeare; and as a combination of fairy ethereality and classic sternness, it certainly exceeds anything that even the present management has yet attempted. All details of acting, &c. I must reserve for next week; and as for the scenery, I can particularise the opening scene of the first act, where, from the terrace of Theseus' palace, we have a splendid view of Athens, with the restored Acropolis, the theatre of Bacchus, &c. Mr. Keane, as he announces in his playbill, has considerably post-dated the period of action. There are two or three charming bits of wood scenery, with the moonlight effect produced by the Electric light, which I told so well in the "Winter's Tale;" and two capital dances. Next week, I hope to give a detailed account of the play as it has been produced; for the present, I can only chronicle its entire and deserved success.

THE LOUNGER.

THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SIR,—I should be glad if you will permit a "constant reader" to offer a few remarks upon your just and able criticism of that popular preacher, Mr. Spurgeon—I do not say as the advertisements do the Bazaarman C. H. Spurgeon; for there is a contradiction in applying such a term to an individual whose manner and bearing imply, more than anything else, an entire absence of seriousness and reverence. Now, this is so obvious and notorious a fact, that I do not believe even his warmest supporters will attempt to gainsay it. There are a number of such and a jumble of the Gospel-spurgeon, or, to adopt his own term, "proclaimer," which are offensive in the highest degree to every serious

And thus being so, it is sadly lowering to one's pride in what England is wont to call her "sterling common sense," to see such popular demonstrations in favour of "Brother Spurgeon." This "set-off for sinners" (as a pious pick-pocket, with upturned eyes, called him) attracts crowds wherever he is announced to preach. The Strand is blocked up on Sunday evening with a mass of people beseeching the doors of that huge building where (it is not uncharitably due to say) more "blessed" nonsense is uttered in the course of one year than in any other ten buildings in London put together—a certain chapel in Southwark excluded. There this man mounts the rostrum, and setting in motion the hysterical-spasmodic-enthusiastic (extremist) systems of his audience, hurls at them, with bold defiance, that Gospel which is a record of mild endurance and kindly feelings, and patient suffering, just as the "Wizard of the North" flings his bombards in the pit during one of his professional feats.

Let us know, Sir, what all this has to do with religion—what with earnest, self-denying goodness. It is religion to "point the Dearly in colours which afflict the soul!"—to make heavy that yoke which is easy, and that burden which is light!—to delude no delusion to the myriads who do not think as the preacher himself, and who have not been "educated" to read in his particular notions?—to turn truths on which Eternity hangs to a low joke, nor even reputable enough for a tavern parlour?—to talk so kindly and so speak no clearly of all around one? Is this, I ask, religion?—the religion at least which should commend itself to the higher and better parts of our nature?

Truly, that Mr. Spurgeon has some of the requisites of a popular preacher, may not, after all, be saying much in his favour. He has unquestionable talent. He has great readiness and fluency of speech; and when (which is very seldom) he can keep his mind from vagaries, he illustrates his subjects in a clever, forcible manner. He is very amusing (Keeley and Backstone had better look out), brightly noisy, immoderately dogmatizing, intensely vulgar, and grossly irrelevant. You gave some instances of the two latter characteristics in your last week's critique.

I have heard Mr. Spurgeon preach twice. The first time I went out of curiosity; the second time—I don't know why I went, but I'm thoroughly ashamed of the fact. Speaking of "nice young men," this popular bird said, "The Lord won't have them at any price. He prefers little Johnny Smith, up in the back gallery, whom no one else is thinking about." The whole congregation was in a titter, and thought the performance wonderful. I thought the whole thing downright profane, and that the "actor" would be more at home on the boards of a low provincial theatre.

Mr. Spurgeon's praying (&c., as you justly remark, is shockingly irrelevant. He tears the elements to pieces, and so belittles, that I was reminded of the question which a little girl, sitting under an affliction of this kind, put to her mother. "Mother," she said, "I thought God was very near to us all. If this is true, what makes the minister shout the prayers so loudly? Is God deaf? or is He only a long way off from 'our' preacher?"

What wisdom there often is in the sayings of a little child! Why, our modern shouters could not say so quiet and clever a thing as this in a lifetime. This "popular preaching" is becoming a very serious evil, when it leads to such profane and vulgar displays as may now be witnessed at Exeter Hall on a Sunday evening;—hence my only apology for attempting to help you in giving an insight into Mr. Spurgeon's public character. It is sincerely to be hoped that his reign will be of brief duration, like that of the hippopotamus, to which you so capriciously allude, and that he will, ere long, howl to every benches. The female furor (I am told) has already abated, in consequence of the gentleman's marriage. For the brevity of his pulpit rule I hope, because I never can bring myself to believe that any preaching can do good, which lacks the great elements of sober seriousness and Christian charity.

Your obedient servant,

Enfield Oct. 13.

M. D.

THE LOSS OF THE STEAMER TAY.—By the arrival of the Asia, mail-steamer, from New York at Liverpool, confirmatory intelligence has been received of the total loss of the Royal Mail Company's steamer Tay, off Lobos Island, in the Gulf of Mexico.

THE PERSIAN EXPEDITION.—A letter from Bombay, September 12th, gives the following details of the preparation making by Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Leake (Commander-in-Chief) to supply the naval contingent of the expedition to Persia.—"With this you will receive the amount of the expedition now getting ready for the Persian Gulf:—5,000 men, besides seamen and marines, who will amount to 1,000 more; 15 steamers, six of them carrying from ten to four 68-pounders; 10 heavily-armed gun-boats, four schooners, and other craft for landing troops; about 20 or 24 transporters, it will be very complete; the island of Karnek will be taken first, for the purpose of getting water, but we think of taking both together. We trust that Sir Henry Leake will command the fleet in person, and take the places with the seamen. If he does he will hoist his flag or pendant on the Assaye or Poonjab, heavy steam-frigates (sister ships), carrying each ten 68-pounders and 240 men. All are hard at work getting the expedition ready."

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS AT STEPNEY.—The churchwardens of the extensive parish of St. Dunstan, Stepney, having given directions to the pew-owners and officers connected with the ancient parish church not to allow any one to be seated in the pews unless they paid a rent for the same, their orders were enforced on Sunday week, and about 130 persons remained standing, although many pews, some rented and some not, were unoccupied. At last the standers got tired, and walked into the churchyard and seated themselves on the tombs. It is almost needless to add that the proceedings of the churchwardens were contrary to law. The ratepayers determined to attend Divine Service the following (last) Sunday, quietly seat themselves in any of the pews they found unoccupied, and to give into the custody of the police any beadle, clerk, or pew-opener who might interrupt them. However, they were not driven to this extremity; for on putting the plan into practice, it was found that the churchwardens wisely gave way.

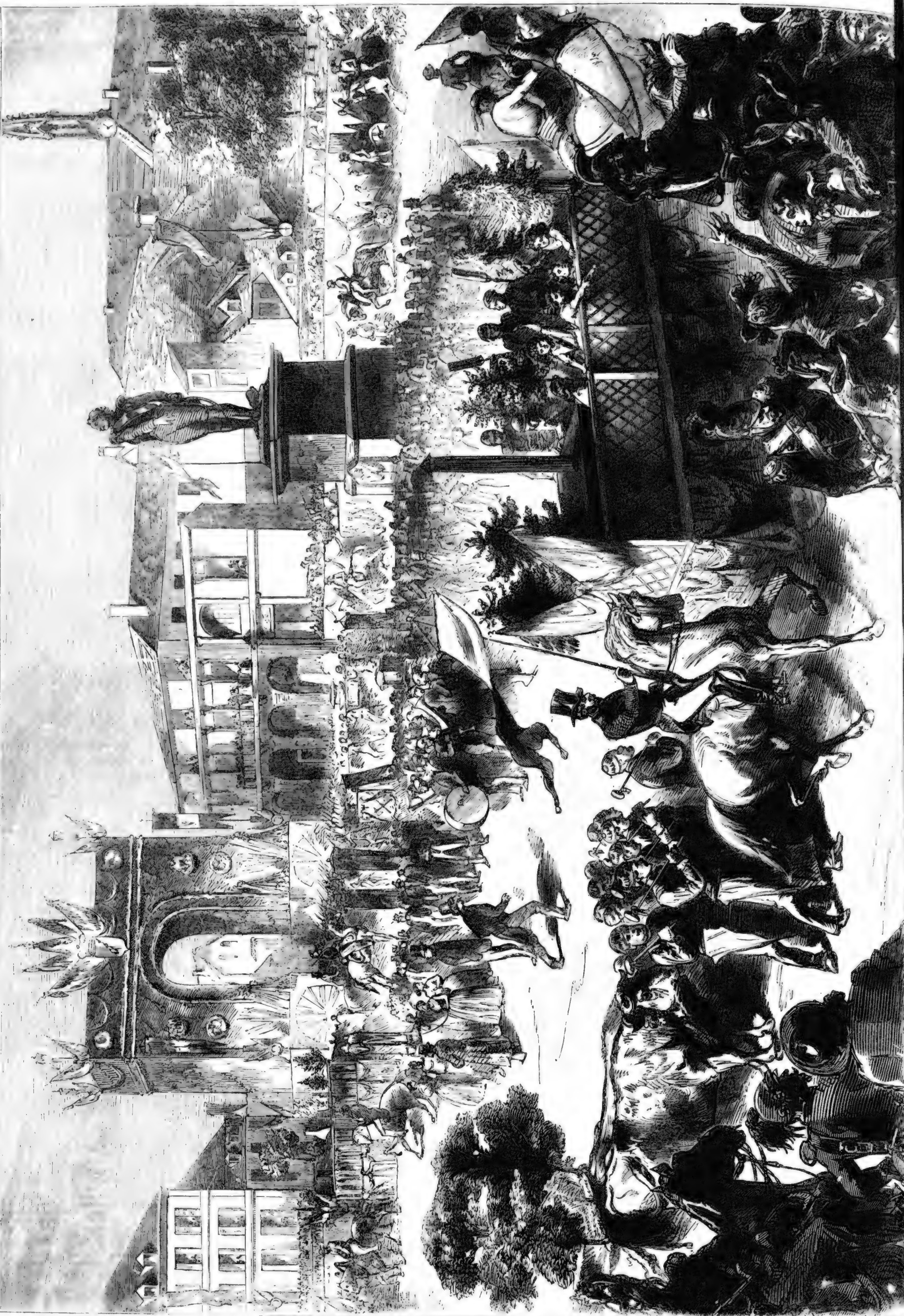
THE SOUND DUES.—The "Fæderlandet" newspaper announces that the question of the Sound Dues is settled, England and Denmark having come to an agreement. The Land Transit Duty is to be reduced.

THE PASSPORT SYSTEM.—The "Nord" of Brussels says that the Governments of Belgium and France have come to an understanding to mitigate the present severities of the Passport system. Thus, travellers who merely pass through either country on their way to another are not to be required to get their passports viséd, provided they exhibit a ticket showing that they have paid their places to a destination which is in neither country; but political refugees are not to be allowed to profit by this privilege. As to the inhabitants of the frontiers, they are to be permitted to go to places near the line of separation of either country, on simply exhibiting any document establishing their identity.

THE LATE BARON ROBECK.—An inquest has been held on the body of Baron de Robeck, which after a long search was found in the Liffey. The verdict was equivalent to "Accidental death." It is said that the Baron's life was insured for £100,000.

WHEREAS KANSAS?—Many persons are asking where is Kansas? Kansas lies in the region of Western territory. At its Southern base is Texas; along the greater part of its eastern frontier lies Missouri; West and North stretch the unsettled Nebraska country. The only Free State touching on the frontiers of Kansas is Iowa. Formerly the road of the emigrant to Kansas lay through Missouri; latterly that has been barred by the Border Ruffians. A new route has now been organised by Wisconsin and Iowa.

A RUSSIAN UKASE restores to his rank and title Prince Dadian, of Mingrelia formerly colonel of the Carabiniers of Erivan, but degraded in 1830 and banished to Wiatska, for abuse of confidence and improper appropriation of the public money.



INAUGURATION OF THE STATUE TO GENERAL RAPP.

The inauguration of the statue to General Rapp, so celebrated as one of the aides-de-camp of the Great Napoleon, has just taken place at Colmar. The idea of raising this national monument was conceived as far back as 1847, when the Province of Alsace, of which he was one of the most popular men, endeavoured to raise a subscription, which, owing to subsequent events, did not prove very successful. However, the old comrades of General Rapp, residing in Paris, anxious to show their sympathy with the Alsatian enterprise, organised a new subscription, and commissioned Mons. Auguste Bartholdi to execute the statue. The statue, which was exhibited in the Champs Elysées during the Great Exhibition of Paris, is original in character and dignified in manner. The General is represented at the siege of Dantzic—the defence of which is memorable in history—receiving the Russian flag of truce, and exclaiming, "Violate the capitulation! the armies of the civilised world will look upon you as barbarians!"

Among those present were the officials of the town and neighbourhood; also General Schramm, President of the Committee for the erection of the statue; together with Generals Meyer, Reibell, and Blanchard, and Colonel Marrier, formerly Aide-de-Camp to General Rapp. The English army was likewise represented in the person of Colonel Halkett, and among the company were several members of the Rapp family.

A lively scene was presented at the inauguration. The procession, having formed at the Town Hall of Colmar, proceeded through the whole town, passing triumphal arches and garlands of flowers; while in the Champs de Mars were erected forty flag-staffs with banners, bearing the names of the principal celebrities of the Upper Rhine. The procession having then formed round the monument, at a given signal from the Mayor of Colmar, the bronze statue was unveiled, and there stood Rapp as he appeared on the ramparts of Dantzic. And now the drums beat to arms amid loud acclamations; and silence being restored, the Mayor of Colmar and other official personages addressed the people, and an ode was sung in honour of the event. The garrison of Colmar, preceded by a band, then marched past the statue, followed by deputations of workmen and agriculturists in chariots and on foot.

Seen from a distance, the objects composing the procession presented merely a confused mass of costumes and innumerable coloured banners, but a nearer view disclosed an Alsatian wagon drawn by six horses, laden with fruit, and decorated all round about with flowers. In this vehicle were numerous young peasant girls, who, as they passed by, scattered bouquets of roses among the crowd. Then came the deputations of the different trades, headed by the bootmakers, who were on foot, and who displayed on a glass globe an elegantly-shaped boot; the glaziers followed, carrying in front of them a painted bell and stars, formed of glass of various colours; next came the locksmiths, bearing a large golden key, with the date 1648 displayed upon it, in intimation of the union of Alsace and France.

Other trades followed; there were the clockmakers, who carried with them a valuable skeleton-clock, from whence hung streamers of ribbon, the ends of which were held by four young girls dressed in white. There were likewise the tanners, who were all attired in black velvet waistcoats, white leather aprons and green velvet caps. With these were the leather-dressers, also wearing black velvet waistcoats; their aprons, however, were of yellow leather, and their caps of crimson velvet—each man, moreover, wore a silken scarf.

Riding in a chariot drawn by oxen came the jovial butchers, dressed in coloured waistcoats, and with their axes on their shoulders as though about to slaughter the miserable little lambs that panted by their sides.

Some of the deputations, not contented with displaying the various devices emblematical of their trade, distributed specimens of their wares among the spectators as they went past. The coopers and brewers exhibited a butt without hoops, and at a moment's notice drew from the same tap two different kinds of liquor. The weavers were to be seen working at a Jacquard loom weaving damask towels and cloths, which they cut up



STATUE OF GENERAL RAPP.—(BY AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI.)

and distributed to the admiring crowd. The carpenters displayed their handicraft. The potters made tiles and bricks; and the masons even were to be seen erecting a turret; while the paviours worked hard at breaking a block of granite.

There were the reapers thrashing corn with an English steam-thrashing machine, and millers grinding the corn; while beneath the mills were to be seen simple leather straps attached to the wheels of the chariot, which carried the flour newly ground to the bakers, who forthwith converted it into dough, which they baked into small rolls and threw them while hot among the people. The potters as they went by cast medallions in plaster of General Rapp, the hero in whose honour all this display was taking place. On another carriage there was even a burning forge with foundries and engineers who melted hard metals, turned brass cylinders, rolled out sheets of tin and lead, and struck medals commemorative of the fête.

Among the many picturesque accessories of this interesting ceremony, not the least striking were the male and female peasants from the Alsatian valley of Munster, who came decked out in their national costume. There were young lads in jackets, gray trousers, and felt hats with broad brims. Old men in chariots, wearing three-cornered hats, and maroon-coloured coats, with breeches, blue stockings, and shoes with buckles. The women wore caps, secured to the upper part of the head by knotted ribbons, the ends of which hang down on each side of the face.

We understand that, from the fact of General Rapp not having been a Catholic, the Church did not testify any excessive respect for his memory on this occasion—neither the Rector of Colmar nor any of his clergy being present at the inauguration. It is worthy of remark, however, that these holy men did not decline to partake of a splendid banquet which the Prefect gave in honour of the event.

GRAND EXPLOSION.—A letter, dated Hong Kong, Aug. 10, says:—"The Dutch ship Banca, Captain Heymans, of 700 tons, with 350 to 370 coolies for Havanah on board, put back to Macao nearly a month ago, with her water-casks leaking, and came to anchor in the outer roads. There she has remained ever since, repairing the coolies not being permitted to land, lest they should make their escape. For three weeks, whatever discontent may have prevailed, no fears of an outbreak would seem to have been entertained, but on last Sunday a Chinese doctor on board warned the captain that mischief was brewing. In preparation for such a contingency as a rising of the coolies, the small arms were placed on the poop, and two guns were loaded with grape and pointed forward. About nine at night the disturbance commenced, and the crew took refuge on the poop. The captain first fired a shot or two overhead; but as this had no effect, and the coolies advanced to the assault, armed with belaying pins, bricks torn from the cooking places, &c., a volley of small arms and the discharge of the big guns followed. This drove the coolies below, whence flames speedily burst through the after hatch, and shortly the ship was in a blaze fore and aft. The mainmast soon fell with a crash; then the fore and mizen, and about midnight the magazine exploded. Of the Europeans, the captain, gunner, and steward are missing, together with 220 to 230 of the coolies, those who were saved having been picked up by the steamer Queen, Captain Endicott's cutter, a lorch, and a fast boat. One sailor, supposed to have been drowned, was found on board a China boat by the Queen yesterday, on her passage over to Hong Kong."

THE COUPE-TÊTES.—A little old man died a few days back in the hospital of St. Just, at Lyons. With him expired the name of Coupe-Têtes, given to one of his forefathers under singular circumstances. During the wars of religion, the executioner of Lyons was the formidable Eleazar de Monbrun. When the massacre of St. Bartholomew took place, he refused positively to lend the slightest assistance in carrying out the sanguinary projects which emanated from the Louvre, and the cabinet of Catherine de Medicis. Monbrun afterwards showed an equal firmness when the Protestants desired to wreak their revenge on the Roman Catholics. In gratitude for this last-named conduct, the Archbishop of Lyons accorded him a small pension with reversion to his direct descendants. This pension was paid regularly to the family, and the father of the old man who has just died received it from Cardinal Peisch and Mgr. Gaston de Pins. Every year on Holy Thursday the Coupe-Têtes of the time received 100*fr.*, and the late bearer of the name was paid it until the revolution of 1830. Since then he was obliged to depend for his subsistence on his daily labour as a chair-maker.



MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES, BROUGHT TO EUROPE BY M. PINGRET

(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

GENERAL RAPP.

THIS distinguished man, whose statue recently erected at Colmar, and the *féte* with which it was inaugurated, are represented on the preceding pages, was born at Colmar, in 1772. His skill and courage at the opening of the French revolutionary war attracted notice, and he figured a *sic-de-camp* to General Desaix during his campaigns in Germany and Egypt. Having held the same post under Bonaparte, when the latter was First Consul, Rapp was, in 1802, employed in the subjugation of the Swiss. At the battle of Austerlitz he defeated the Russian Imperial Guard, and took Prince Replim prisoner; and in 1807, he was nominated Governor of Dantzic. After the retreat of the French army, he defended that place with the highest ability and courage, till compelled by famine to capitulate. Returning to France in 1814, he was received with distinction by Louis XVIII.; but he lost favour by joining Napoleon after his return from Elba. He however regained the Royal favour, and died in 1821, Lieutenant-General of cavalry.

MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES.

WHEN we consider how interesting, in many points of view, is the subject of Mexican antiquities, we cannot wonder that M. Pingret, while in Mexico, should have wished to collect some of the remains of that nation annihilated by the religious fanaticism of the Spaniards. He was without assistance, and had to encounter difficulties; nevertheless, he succeeded in accumulating upwards of 2,400 specimens of genuine Aztec art, manufactured, for the most part, of earthenware. These remains of the religious faith and domestic habits of a nation which has disappeared were brought by M. Pingret to France; and his collection not merely rivals but excels either of those in the Museums of London and Paris.

Generally speaking, the most authentic and esteemed antiquities are those which are made of some hard, durable substance; but science ought not to exclude as unworthy of attention such as are of more perishable material. There are in this collection objects that will serve to teach the archaeologist how much knowledge he may gain by carefully studying earthenware and carved-wood productions. Take, for instance, from a number of little statues, figure 1, so hideously fantastic—the eyes staring, as it were, from the head, and the jaws furnished with enormous teeth. This statue represents the great god Huitzilopochtli, the Mexican Mars, who is the most important among the mythology of the Aztecs. His hideous face may be observed on a bas-relief, figure 2, supporting a feathered serpent, sculptured in black granite, was found, it seems, in a burial-ground, where it formed the base of a stone cross.

Figure 3, is an earthenware group, tolerably well executed, and represents a human sacrifice. It may also be seen on a block, which will serve to explain another antiquity in jasper, until recently little noticed, from the fact of its being the spurpost at the corner of the residence of the Serventes family, one of the most ancient and important in Mexico. This spurpost, on which is sculptured, in the most exaggerated proportions, the features of the god of war (figure 4), is in fact the fatal block, the real sacrificial altar of the Aztecs, and consequently the most important monument in Mexico. There is a second one in another street of the town, but it is not perfect. It is not improbable that it was on these very altars that the Aztec priests immolated 6,000 prisoners on the accession of their last emperor Montezuma; also that many of the followers of Cortez expiated with their lives the audacity of their conquest.

The actual discovery in Mexico of a sacrificial altar confutes all that has hitherto been written on what was called the "sacrificial stone" dug up from the Place Mayor by an Englishman, who brought a cast of it to England. This stone is jasper. In diameter it is twelve feet, and its flat and circular form proves the impossibility of its having been used for human sacrifices. But it is most probable that it was used as an arena on which gladiators fought for life or death before the people, a custom peculiar to the tribes of Anahuac. The hole which is pierced through the centre of the stone, and which is said to have been the gutter which carried off the blood of victims, was simply cut for the purpose of fixing an iron cross symbolical of the triumph of Christianity over barbarism. Another object (fig. 5) will also prove how much knowledge may be gleaned by studying the various specimens of pottery. It is a model of the great "Te-oacali" (the house of God), so minutely described by the Spaniards from personal inspection, and which Cortez demolished to make a space, on which he built the Cathedral of Mexico. This model is an authentic copy of the sacred building, which attracted people from all parts of Anahuac. It was entered by two flights of steps, one for the priests and the other for the victims. In the towers built on the top were placed in square niches (the Aztecs were unacquainted with the pointed arch) figures of the protective gods. The sacrificial altar stood near the flight of steps, from the top of which the lifeless bodies of the victims fell one after another in honour of the religious festivities of the people. The skulls of the yearly victims were collected, and preserved in rows fixed symmetrically over the front of the towers, on which the followers of Cortez counted no less than 136,000. At first Cortez could only obtain the use of one of the chapels of the great "Te-oacali" of Mexico, in which he had mass performed at such times as the bloody and cruel ceremony of the Aztecs was not being practised.

Figure 6, which is sculptured in lava, is a representation of the chapels mentioned above, which still contains the protective deity. The closed mouth is emblematical of silence, as the protruding tongue is of speech. The sitting deity represented by figure 7 is depicted like the one shown in the chapel, with a closed mouth. Figure 8, holds a vase in which was received the blood of the victim sacrificed. Figure 9 is the vase itself, stained red, and polished with blood, as is also the sacred knife (10), which was used to rip out the bowels of the victim. The censor (11) was used by the priests when on solemn occasions they fumed the emperor.

The fragment of jasper (12) is part of a necklace, which one of the six priests, who acted as executioners, placed on the neck of the criminal to prevent him from moving. In the Museum at Mexico, and in a private collection, three of these necklaces are to be found. The funeral stone (13) covered with emblems of death, seems to complete the series of instruments used in the bloody rites of the religion of the ancient Mexicans.

Numbers of other figures in this collection are symbolical of Aztec deities; the female figure (14), carrying in one hand a head of maize, and in the other a water-melon, is the Ceres of the Aztecs; the reclining figure (15), holding a vase, is the god of pulque, a fermented and intoxicating drink still in use in Mexico, in other words the Bacchus of the Aztec, of which the Mexican Museum possesses the original, sculptured in black porphyry. The life-size statue (16), sculptured in pink lava, represents a young man seated on the ground, which in the hieroglyphic language of the Aztecs signifies earthquake. This statue, which had probably been placed in a temple erected to appease the anger of the spirit of destruction, was discovered by Mr. Hidalgo, one of the most celebrated architects of Mexico, in some property which belongs to him on the slopes of the Popocatepetl, an extensive volcano, and which the Indians believed to be their hell. Cortez, requiring sulphur, desired one of his officers to descend the crater (at the present date perhaps one of the most productive sulphur mines of the day), thus was the discovery made.

On the previous page will be found an engraving representing the various specimens which we have been describing from this remarkable and valuable collection brought by M. Pingret to Europe.

FATAL SCHOOLBOY QUARREL.—An inquest was recently held on William Jacob Debow, aged eleven years, who was alleged to have died from the effects of a kick received from a schoolfellow of about his own age, named Role. The evidence was to the effect that a dispute arose between the deceased and Role about seats; they went out of the room, and immediately afterwards the deceased returned crying, and said that Role had kicked him. Role, on being called, denied wilfully kicking the deceased, and said that whatever took place was in play. Deceased returned home from school, and left ill. He attributed his illness, which was confined to acute pains in his chest and bowels, to the kick he received from Role; and after his death a great mass of disease was discovered, the immediate cause of death being from hemorrhage produced from the rupture of an aneurism of the aorta. The jury, after some deliberation, returned an open verdict to the effect that there was not sufficient evidence to prove whether the deceased's death was produced by violence or not, and the investigation then terminated.

LAW AND CRIME.

AN old woman, aged sixty-three, was charged before Mr. Alderman Egleton, with breaking a window in the justice-room of Guildhall. The elderly female resorts to this pastime, not from wantonness or malice, but in order to provide herself with a more comfortable diet and residence than are to be obtained in the workhouse. Alderman Egleton made some very proper and judicious remarks upon this case. It is rather singular that when an alderman expresses himself soundly and rationally, it is usually the preliminary to an absurd judgment. When, on the other hand, the judgment is unexceptionable, it is not unfrequently formed a ludicrous *non sequitur* to an illogical preamble. Mr. Alderman Egleton said that the case of the old woman was "the fault of our laws, and that the unfortunate and distressed who were obliged to seek the refuge of a workhouse had a worse dietary scale than the felon and the vagrant." So far good; *ergo*—as the law, instead of punishing, holds out an inducement to the act, the old woman was in the right to break the windows. Make civic dinners to aldermen (with the alternative of workhouse gruel) contingent upon fractured panes, and how long would there remain a sound foot of glass at Guildhall? Having thus shown the blame to rest with the law alone, the worthy Alderman proceeded to punish the old woman. He sentenced her to fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour, on bread and water only, thereby negating his own previous argument by proving that the criminal does not necessarily receive a better diet than the pauper. The old woman will be wiser in a fortnight; and, for the future, instead of breaking windows at Guildhall, will find it to her advantage to commit theft in other districts.

The parochial authorities of Marylebone have changed their tone upon the recent case of woman-flogging. The Poor Law Board having insisted on the discharge of the master implicated in the affair, the guardians refuse compliance with the demand, on the ground of their right of self-government. The matter will have to be contested in the Queen's Bench; and, in the meantime, the parochial authorities are striving to improve their position in public opinion. Messrs. Ridding and Potter, who have hitherto defended the infamy, are now mute on the subject. Their coadjutors even propose motions and make speeches deprecatory of the crime, but protest, with a kind of burlesque parochial patriotism, against "intervention." If the intervention of the Poor Law Board, or of any other established authority, can release a parish from the uncontrolled dominion of such rulers as the Marylebone authorities, it is not likely that the public will make common cause with those who render the interference necessary. It must be remembered that, had these Marylebone chandlers performed, in the first instance, the duty which humanity, law, and justice alike required of them, the Poor Law Board would have had no cause to intermeddle. It is too late now, after having insulted and defied public opinion until they found it too powerful for them, to invoke its aid to fight their battles. The ratepayers should keep a close watch upon these workhouse despots, whose shallow manoeuvre is to endeavour to create a cry, in order that they may, unquestioned, involve the parish in expensive legal proceedings. Public meetings should be held in the parish, censuring the conduct of the guardians in not dismissing the offending master (utterly irrespective of the direction of the Poor Law Board), and vehemently protesting against saddling the parish with the costs of their vulgar and unreasoning obstinacy.

The suicide season appears to have set in in terrible earnest. Every day women are taken before the metropolitan magistrates, and charged with attempting to leap from a bridge by a policeman who fortunately prevents the act. In other cases, the object is attained but too often. It is somewhat remarkable, however, that the suicides just at present are most frequently women. This may be accounted for perhaps by the terrible retribution exacted by our social system for female error, but it also tends to strengthen the idea of the existence of one of those morbid states of intellect which so frequently and inexplicably attack almost simultaneously whole masses of persons subject to their influence, and which have of late years excited philosophical inquiry as to whether insanity may not be epidemic. Burton, in the "Anatomy of Melancholy," mentions a town in which the suicidal mania raged for some time among the young maidens, but was ultimately checked by a plan impracticable among us at this day. If some of our religious societies were to place the bridges and their vicinities with addresses, setting forth in a Christian spirit the heinousness and terrible nature of the crime, the exhortation might not be fruitless. The solemn advice of a benevolent and sensible police magistrate seldom fails to produce a repentant promise from an intended culprit.

The Royal British Bank having been declared bankrupt after proceedings taken in Chancery under the Winding-up Act, a conflict of jurisdiction has arisen. Should the power be decided to reside with the Court of Bankruptcy, the unhappy depositors and shareholders must not too readily console themselves with the hope of saving heavy expenses. When we mention that, by the 20th section of the act under which the fiat is issued, power is given to the Bankruptcy Court to direct the assignees to petition Chancery under the Winding-up Act, it will be seen that, after all, the bankruptcy may just bring matters to the exact position in which they previously were, except that certain additional costs will have been incurred. The Court of Bankruptcy will, it is true, possess powers not belonging to the Court of Chancery of securing the property of the Company, and enforcing payment of the debts due to it. The 2nd section of the act empowering the bankruptcy provides a solution to a question almost universally asked by the public just at present. The bankruptcy of the Company is *not* to be construed as that of its individual members. This, therefore, will seem to render the ultimate application of the Winding-up Act an absolute necessity. No share of a member can be set off against a claim on behalf of the Company. Therefore, if the holder of a paid-up share, or shares, owe the Company any amount whatever, (as will be the case probably of tradesmen whose bills have been discounted by the bank), the debt must be satisfied absolutely in the first instance. It is gratifying to learn, however, that the Bankruptcy Court may certify the causes of failure to the Privy Council, who may thereupon submit all necessary documents to the Attorney-General for his advice as to a criminal prosecution, which, if instituted, will be directed by the Treasury Commissioners.

The rural magistrates still continue to reflect honour upon our provincial administration of justice. It is a singular and almost inexplicable fact, that the harshest and most unjust sentences are almost invariably passed by the clerical gentlemen in her Majesty's Commission of the Peace. A correspondent of a contemporary announces that, a few days since, a reverend gentleman committed a female child to prison for twenty-one days on a charge of disturbing the congregation during divine service, her real offence being that she had tittered in church, which to the orthodox mind is a crime far more reprehensible than the purchase of a next presentation to a rectory. At Haslingden, a difference of opinion arose on the bench of justices as to granting a public-house licence. One of the worthies taunted his colleague with having married a barmaid, and received a very proper retort, which indeed he might reasonably have anticipated, by being instantly cut across the face with a cane for his cowardly insult. Hereupon a pugilistic encounter immediately took place, and one of the parties (let us hope the aggressor) was severely thrashed. The Mayor of Rochester, being in the Conservative interest, favoured his party to such an extent on a revision of votes, as to disfranchise more than one-half of the burgesses, and succeeded in raising a riot from which he contrived to escape unhurt. It is to be hoped that during next session this rural justice system may receive some attention, with a view to its amendment. The Legislature can scarcely be aware that the power of these men is so great at present, that they actually set acts of Parliament at defiance. This may be easily proved even within a few miles of London. Although an express reservation in favour of travellers is made by the statute regulating the sale of beer on Sundays, the publicans in certain districts (between London and Greenwich for instance) dare not sell a glass of ale to the pedestrian wayfarer on a Sunday morning, because, although the law is with them, the magistrates would seize upon the transaction at the next opportunity, as a ground of refusal to continue the seller's licence.

The British public stand a fair chance of receiving a little instruction as to what "heroes" really are. Lieutenant Massy has recently written a most sensible letter declining the appellation, perhaps not less from pride than modesty. To be pointed out as never having been a hero will soon be-

come rather an enviable distinction. Three privates in the Coldstream, all heroes, met a party of married folks with young women of their families, returning from a friendly supper. One of the heroes dung his arm round the neck of one of the matrons, and on being remonstrated with by the husband, the warriors attacked the entire party, knocking down and kicking men and women, old and young, indiscriminately. When the police appeared the fight was renewed, one of the gallant fellows shouting "let me have his stamp commonly adorn their nouns," and that led to a fight before he was taken. As the life of one of the young women has been endangered by the brutality she has experienced, it is probable that the magistrate will commit the fellows for trial on their appearance next Monday, to which day they are remanded.

A cab was driving furiously through the streets, with a young woman inside screaming "Murder!" when two policemen stopped the vehicle, at great personal risk. One of these was instantly assailed violently by the driver, who promised to take the earliest opportunity of shooting him. The young woman (who was probably a domestic servant or a dressmaker, and had outstaid the time limited for her absence), had, it appears, bargained with the driver to take her home for two shillings, when he drove her in an entirely different direction; and she was meanwhile abused by a man who by some unexplained means was also within the cab. The next day the young woman did not appear, which is the only explanation possible of the extraordinary lenity with which the magistrate treated a charge of so shocking a nature. The cabman was fined 20s. for the assault, and 20s. for furious driving, so that altogether he may reckon himself cheaply out of his trouble, especially if, as we have some reason to believe, an association exists among his fraternity to defray the pecuniary penalties by which their improper conduct is occasionally visited.

ROBSON'S CASE.

THE reports which have been in circulation respecting the amount of loss which the company will sustain by the frauds lately practised in the Transfer Office of the Crystal Palace, are, we understand, greatly exaggerated. It appears certain that the whole loss of the company, by recognising the validity of shares improperly issued, will not exceed the nominal sum of £20,000, and considerably less if the shares were purchased at the present market prices. The difficulties which Robson had to contend with in carrying out his practices for the two or three years last past must have been very great, and it is scarcely possible to conceive how he could have provided for the payment of the dividends on the irregular shares without the circumstance coming earlier to the knowledge of the directors. The first discovery of the frauds was owing to the discrepancy which existed in the amount paid by the company's bankers on the dividend warrants, and the actual sum which ought to have been paid as dividend on the preference stock. In every department connected with the shares of the company, Robson appears to have had some irregular transactions. Having sold shares deposited with the company, it became necessary to provide dividend warrants for the payment of dividends when due, not only for the original owner, but for the subsequent purchaser. In many cases these warrants were supplied by Robson, and having access to the seal of the company, they were all duly and regularly stamped. In the case of transfers the signatures of the secretary and one of the directors of the company were required, and they were supplied by Mr. Robson. In other cases duplicate shares have been issued, printed, signed, and sealed in the same manner as the regular shares of the company. The shares, transfers, and dividend warrants have, it is said, been all more or less tampered with.

The style in which Robson lived, and the appearance which he kept up, ought to have suggested something like inquiry on the part of the directors as to his means. His salary was but £150 a-year, and yet every morning he drove up to the palace with a currier and a pair of horses, which for beauty could probably not be matched in London, or rode on one of the prettiest "nags about town," attended by his servant in livery. He had also the famous trotting mare "Eliza," which was accustomed to trot easily from the Crystal Palace to London Bridge in twenty minutes, being at the rate of twenty miles an hour; or, as her owner frequently boasted, of beating the railway trains by several minutes. The pair of horses which he was in the habit of driving were sold under the hammer for £520. Never, perhaps, was there such an instance of self-sacrificing exertion for a great public undertaking as that of a gentleman living in this style consenting to do the daily drudgery of the duties of a transfer clerk for the small consideration of £150 a-year. Questions were sometimes asked as to the means which he possessed, and satisfactory answers were always given. Among other things, he said that his wife had just succeeded to some property of £500 a-year, and that he was making large sums of money from the theatres for the performance of his plays; for it has only recently become known that Robson is the author of several plays. He made a considerable sum by some very successful speculations on the Stock Exchange; some chemical works, in connection with the preparation of antimony, are said to have yielded him considerable profit; he was proprietor, also, of a large share in the timber bending patents; he held some paying shares in a Welch mine, and he was a director in three or four joint-stock companies. With all these sources of revenue openly avowed by himself, he was still found sedulously attentive to the duties of his small office.

As soon as Robson had taken flight, the directors offered a reward of £250 for his apprehension. Now that he has been captured, a question arises, who is entitled to the reward? We understand that the rightful claimant is a lady. For some days no clear traces of Robson could be obtained, though there are good grounds for supposing that for several days after the discovery of the fraud he was concealed in London. Aided by some friends he succeeded, however, in getting out of the country, and when on the Continent he addressed a letter to a lady, who, in other times, had been the subject of his attentions, and the recipient of no small share of his wealth. This letter, it is stated, was delivered to a milliner who was at work in the house, and who, having some suspicion as to the writer, opened the letter, and, tempted by the reward, gave information to the police authorities. The fair disciple of the Grahamite policy has, we are informed, put in her claim for the reward.

The circumstances connected with the sale of the property of Robson at Kilburn Priory have excited considerable surprise. It is said that the lessee of one of the theatres took possession, under a bill of sale, of all the property and effects, early on the morning of the following day after the absconding of their owner, and the effects were immediately sold by auction, the holder of the bill of sale being of course ignorant of the real state of affairs. Robson, on his apprehension, stated that large sums of money were due to him by several persons, and among the names mentioned was that of the gentleman who had taken possession of his property under the bill of sale. A fiat in bankruptcy has been issued against Robson, so that the whole of the transactions connected with the disposal of the property will be thoroughly investigated. As must naturally be expected, the position of the prisoner has had a most serious effect on the health of his wife. Without the slightest notice or warning, Mrs. Robson was expelled from her splendid residence at Kilburn, and driven from a sick-bed, on which she had languished for some time past, under a most painful disease, and arrived almost penniless at Brighton, where she now remains in a most precarious state of health.

Among the dramatic works which Robson had written are "Love and Loyalty," a piece which had a run of over a hundred nights, if we remember rightly, at the Marylebone Theatre. Another of his plays is "The Selfish Man." His most ambitious work, however, is "Bianca," a play in five acts, which was under rehearsal at Drury Lane up to the time of Robson's flight. The play has been in print for the last two or three months, and is dedicated "To those who, believing in the realisation of the highest aspirations of the human mind, claim for the drama the proud position of being one of the chief means by which that realisation is to be attained." Judging from the rate of remuneration given by managers of theatres, it is not probable that any very large gains were made by Robson from this source, and his play of "Bianca" is not calculated to raise a very high opinion of his dramatic genius. It appears certain, however, that he had other sources of revenue than those from his dramatic writings or his attendance at the transfer office at the Crystal Palace.

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